

THE TIMES

Tomorrow

Home... Spectrum lives out a day in the life of a council estate... thoughts... Philip Howard imagines a conversation between Dr Johnson (below) and George Orwell



Police hall... David Miller reports on an arresting football match in St Paul's, Bristol
Past imperfect... Alan Franks lays the ghost of Christmas past

Bradman record is beaten

Sunil Gavaskar, the Indian cricketer, overtook Donald Bradman's record of 29 Test centuries as he made 149 not out against West Indies in Madras yesterday during his 99th appearance for his country. John Woodcock, page 16

Pan-Am threat to Concorde

Pan American World Airways has asked the US regulatory agency to suspend Concorde fares on the ground of unfair competition by British Airways and the British Government

Page 3

German thaw

Relations between East and West Germany have never been better, with the former increasingly dependent on Bonn's financial largesse

Page 5

New pleasures

New attractions such as highly mechanized pleasure parks kept up the number of sightseers in England in 1982, despite the fall in popularity of longer-established attractions, according to the English Tourist Board

Page 3

Bignone charge

Former President Bignone of Argentina faces a second charge of involvement in disappearances during the "dirty war" conducted by the military regimes of the 1970s

Page 5

Burton deal

Burton has bought the Harry Fenton chain of 93 menswear shops for £3.5m in a deal which took only three days to complete

Page 13

Steel decisions

Two factors, both requiring renewed government commitment to the steel industry, will influence the British Steel Corporation's plans

Page 2

Blast kills six

Six people were killed in a propane gas explosion and five in Buffalo, New York. Sixty others were injured

Page 4

Ship silenced

A clampdown on comments was placed on a Russian liner after allegations that holidaymakers had been given a Christmas cruise they would wish to forget

Page 2

Sports review

David Miller looks back on a year that saw India beat West Indies, Australia win the American's Cup and the first world athletics championships in Helsinki

Page 17

Leader page 11
Letters: On housing, from Mr B Chivers, and Mr H William-Olsson; police shooting, from Mr D Hamilton; law-breaking, from Mr J O Thomson

Leading articles: The economy; Kremlin; BBC popularity poll
Features, pages 8, 10

Poland's new church-state conflict: towards a Falklands talks formula; Richard North's party shots: The Times Profile: Francois Mitterrand
Obituary, page 12

Dr Donald Caskie, Friedrike von Weddick

Home News 2, 3 Diary 10
Overseas 4, 5 Events 20
Apples 12, 14 Science 12
Arts 6 Snowdrops 16
Books 9 Sport 16-18
Bridge 12 TV & Radio 19
Business 13-15 Theatre, etc 19
Church 12 Universities 12
Court 12 Weather 20
Crossword 20 Wills 12

US role in Lebanon put in doubt by bomb inquiry

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The Pentagon report on the suicide bombing which killed 241 American troops in Beirut calls for an urgent review of the entire US military mission in Lebanon.

The lengthy report, published yesterday, will provide powerful ammunition for Congressional critics of America's presence in Lebanon. It goes far beyond merely apportioning blame for the disaster, and repeatedly raises broad questions about the military pursuit of US objectives in Beirut.

It says that America's decisions about Lebanon have to a great extent been "characterized by an emphasis on military options and the expansion of the US military role", even though the security of American troops has become more precarious "as progress towards a diplomatic solution slowed".

The report advocates "re-examination of alternative means of achieving US objectives in Lebanon, to include a comprehensive assessment of the military security options being developed by the chain of command, and a more vigorous and demanding approach to pursuing diplomatic alternatives".

Although the decision is popular in military circles, it is seen by some analysts as

political interference with the military legal system. It is argued by some observers that it conflicts with the traditional principle that officers are responsible for the safety and well-being of their troops.

Legally, Mr Reagan's remarks do not preclude the instigation of court martial proceedings against individuals but such an exercise would be largely pointless since he has effectively said that he would issue a pardon.

Lesser punishments, such as reprimands or demotions, would technically still be possible but White House officials made clear yesterday that the President felt that no actions of any kind should be taken.

The Pentagon report, which runs to 160 pages, was prepared by a five-member panel headed by retired Admiral Robert Long. It followed the findings of a congressional inquiry last week which blamed the entire chain of military command for lax security.

The Long Report also blames the whole operational military chain of command, from the local battalion commander to the head of US forces in Europe, General Bernard Rogers.

Missing Andropov still wields power in Kremlin

From Richard Owen, Moscow

President Andropov again nated to stand as a deputy to the Supreme Soviet in the elections next March.

There is nonetheless widespread concern over the fact that although Mr Andropov is still laying down economic guidelines and appointing new officials, he has not been seen since the middle of August.

In his speech on Monday, which was read for him, Mr Andropov made no reference to foreign policy, even though Moscow faces an East-West crisis over arms control and is due to take a stand at the Stockholm disarmament conference next month. Against expectations there were no foreign policy speeches at yesterday's Kremlin meeting, although foreign policy was debated later in closed session.

In his public reference to Foreign Affairs, Mr Vasily Garbozov, the Finance Minister, said Soviet defences would be strengthened because of Nato's "extreme recklessness" missile deployment in Europe.

Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Prime Minister, sat in Mr Andropov's place on the platform, with Mr Konstantin Cherneko next to him. Mr Cherneko is the Kremlin number two by seniority, and opposed Mr Andropov for the leadership last year. Late Mr Vinogradov took his place as a full Politburo member alongside Mr Grigori Romanov, the former Leningrad party leader. Both are now considered possible successors to Mr Andropov.

In another move designed to show that Mr Andropov is in control and not about to step down, Tass announced that the Soviet leader had been nomi-

nated to stand as a deputy to the Supreme Soviet in the elections next March.

The disclosure, first broadcast by Israel Radio, has implications both for domestic politics and for the Middle East peace process, which is deadlocked. West Bank settlements are seen as one of the obstacles.

Mr Cohen-Orgad's proposals are due to be presented to an emergency meeting of the Cabinet tomorrow, to consider a sweeping programme of cuts designed to reduce the balance of payments deficit by \$1,000m (£715m).

Treasury sources were quoted as saying that most new settlements planned for the West Bank would be affected by the freeze, which is designed to last at least 12 months.

Within hours of the broadcast Mr Yitzhak Ne'eman, leader of the right-wing Techni Party, announced that it would leave the Government if any settlement freeze was introduced.

Techiyya's Knesset support is vital to the ruling coalition's viability, and its members demanded an immediate meeting with Mr Cohen-Orgad. But the minister - himself a West Bank settler - was called instead to talks with Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister.

The report coincided with the publication of an opinion poll showing that 48.5 per cent of those questioned were against new West Bank settlements, and only 36.9 per cent in favour, compared with 58.3 per cent in favour in October, 1981, and only 21.9 per cent opposed.

Setting the scene, page 4
Leading article, page 11

Maze escapers linked to Tidey's kidnap

Irish police have established that the IRA gang behind the kidnap of Mr Don Tidey, a Dublin businessman, included men who escaped in a break-out from the Maze prison in Belfast last September.

Three of the kidnap group are known to have been among the 38 prisoners who got out of the Maze, killing a warden on the way.

But detectives indicated last night that they knew the identities of at least four of the gang that abducted Mr Tidey on November 24 in an attempt to extort a £5m ransom from his employers. All four are under-

stood to be from Northern Ireland.

But detectives believe some members of the group of up to eight men were based in the south. Two men, one from Co Kerry and the other from Co Leitrim, have been charged with falsely imprisoning Mr Tidey.

Mr Tidey, aged 49, a widower and father of three, was cleared at Leicester crown court after allegations made against him by the anti-abortion group, LIFE.

Mr John Harding, deputy chief administrator for the Derbyshire area health authority, which employed him said: "Dr Arthur's death will be a tremendous loss to the health service in this region."

Dr Arthur was originally charged with the murder of three-day-old John Pearson at Derby City Hospital but, after two days of legal submissions in the absence of a jury, the charge was changed to one of attempted murder. It was alleged that he prescribed a drug which suppressed appetite and impaired breathing.

In the past year there have been a number of bombings in Paris, attributed to Action Directe, an extreme left-wing group, and organizations such as the Revolutionary Caribbean Alliance. A bombing in Marseilles in October was thought to have been the work of a right-wing body with the title of the Charles Martel group.

The French authorities have also been struggling with Corsican organizations demanding independence and Basque groups operating from French territory. In recent months attacks on French troops in Bejaia have led to tighter security for M. Francois Mitterrand, the French President.

There has been considerable activity by anti-terrorist squad officers and Special Branch detectives in London since the Harrods bombing and yesterday's raid may have been a by-product of these investigations.

Lean times ahead for food-loving MPs

Let me have men about me

that are fat;

Steak-headed men and such

as sleep o' nights.

Yond Cassius has a lean

and hungry look;

He thinks too much: such

men are dangerous.

By Philip Webster

Clearly Julius Caesar's con-

cerns about the menace of thin

men is not shared by the people

responsible for feeding Bri-

tain's MPs.

The House of Commons

catering committee aims to slim

down our public representatives

and make them healthier and

fitter. Menus in the dining

rooms and cafeterias at Westmin-

ster House, one of the main dining rooms.

He said yesterday that MPs should be given the chance to eat more carefully. "We are

virtually prisoners here when the Commons is sitting", he said. "We will try to give more emphasis to healthier eating.

Instead of suet puddings with

syrup poured all over them we

would like to make the meals lighter."

Mr Geoffrey Dickens, Con-

servative MP for Littleborough and Saddleworth, who weighs 19 stone, said: "It's a very good idea. A lot of us are getting quite portly. Mr Irving tells me

I am one of his best cus-

tomers."



for the Finsbury Room,

leaves the factory and by preventing

the export of sub-standard tea.

So before you pick up a packet

of Darjeeling, check the small

print for the percentage. Remember, if it isn't 100% Darjeeling, the

champagne of teas.

Pure India teas also include

Assam's 'body-beautiful' of teas

and Ceylon's 'overflows' with fragrance.

Available at leading

supermarkets, or write for

free samples or three

test tea

Department T

100, London NW1

Please enclose 30p postage

Allow 2-3 days for delivery.

DARJEELING

PURE INDIA TEA

100% Darjeeling

100% Ceylon

100% Assam

100% Ceylon

Unions pay £30,000 to boost Kinnock image on his political travels

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The unions are to pay £30,000 to finance the political travels of Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, and research work for Shadow Cabinet members.

The cash is being made available through Trade Union for Labour Victory, the umbrella body set up by the labour movement to channel funds to the party.

Most of the money will go towards funding research staff working for Opposition front bench spokesmen, but several thousand pounds are reserved for national and international trips by Mr Kinnock to build up his image as the alternative Prime Minister. He is to visit the United States and the Soviet Union next spring.

Union leaders agreed to donate the cash from TULV funds after an approach from the party leaders whose state financial support has been reduced in the wake of Labour's disastrous performance at the polls last June.

TULV and party officials were reluctant yesterday to comment publicly on the increasing scale of support for the

State "Short money" for the Opposition, so called after the former Labour deputy leader Mr Edward Short (now Lord Glenamara), who devised the formula, is calculated on popular votes cast at the general election. Labour's reduced share is reflected in a shortfall on last year's grant.

Faced with a reduction of £4,000, to £317,000, in the "Short money" grade at a time when Labour is expanding its parliamentary support team, Mr Kinnock approached TULV for funds to "top up" the government subvention.

The unions, whose cash-gathering operation is threatened by left and right-wing breakaways, agreed to make up the bulk of the shortfall as part of a continuing support programme for the Labour Party.

TULV and party officials were reluctant yesterday to comment publicly on the increasing scale of support for the

New leader brings more votes

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Firm evidence of the recovery of the Labour Party under the leadership of Mr Neil Kinnock has been disclosed in a survey by the *New Statesman* of the results of local council by-elections held since he took over from Mr Michael Foot on October 2.

The sharp rise in the party's electoral popularity which occurred immediately after his election at Brighton has been sustained, with Labour winning more votes than the Conservatives over the past three months.

In 79 local contests involving the three main parties, Labour candidates have attracted 55,997 votes, or 33.7 per cent, and Conservative candidates

as he prepares to rally his party for the twin challenge of next year's local and European Parliament elections.

Recent opinion polls have shown a steady move towards Labour but Mr Kinnock and his colleagues will be more impressed by the survey, which is to appear in this week's *New Statesman*, because it shows that people have been prepared to translate their liking for the new team into votes.

The survey is a factor that will allow Mr Kinnock and his party to enter the new year with more optimism than seemed likely four months ago.

Findings, page 8

The survey comes as an important boost to Mr Kinnock

| Council | Seats | Seats | Seats |
|----------|-------|--------|-------|
| defended | lost | gained | |
| C | 37 | 8 | 7 |
| Lab | 33 | 7 | 6 |
| Lib | 11 | 3 | 10 |
| SDP | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Others | 9 | 7 | 1 |

Fate of Ravenscraig hinges on government and EEC pledges

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Two key factors will influence the new plan for steel being drawn up by the British Steel Corporation after the collapse of talks with United States Steel - and both will require a renewed government commitment.

Production at the threatened Ravenscraig works, near Glasgow, and throughout British Steel, is protected by a statement made in December, then Secretary of State for Industry.

The Government instructed British Steel to keep open the five integrated works for three years. Port Talbot, Llanwern, Scunthorpe, Ravenscraig, and Teesside.

There is little indication that the Government will change its mind.

Significantly, the corporation's three wide-strip mills are located at Port Talbot, Llanwern and Ravenscraig, the last being the most vulnerable because of its greater distance from the main markets.

The second factor is that

under the European Commission's crisis plan to restructure the steel industry, member governments are committed to phasing out all state aid by the end of 1985.

That is regarded as optimistic by some European steel leaders, but the British Government regards abolition of aid as vital to the privatization of British Steel, which it still expects to break even by March, 1985.

The Scottish lobby, in which Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, has played a big role, has argued for the retention of Ravenscraig as an integrated works on the ground of job implications, but also because further deterioration of Scotland's manufacturing base would threaten the country's cohesion.

The big question now relates not so much to the strip mills, one of which British Steel wanted to close even if the deal with US Steel was concluded, but to overall manned steel-making capacity, which stands at 14.4 million tonnes.

Mr Younger has argued that Britain could sustain only two of its three integrated steel works had no basic in reality.

Ravenscraig's convener, Mr Tommy Brennan, said yesterday, "We do not have any fears for the future now".

Appeal for witness of bomb hoax

An appeal was made in Manchester Magistrates' Court yesterday for a witness who allegedly saw a hoax bomb being left at Abbeyfields old people's home, earlier this month shortly before it was opened by the Princess of Wales, in Withington, Manchester.

Mr Stuart Taylor, of Chatham Court, and Mrs Susan Wood, of Heyscroft Road, both Withington, were remanded on bail until January 18, having denied the offence.

Jeremy Seymour-Eyles, of Hartington Road, Twickenham, was sent to a detention centre for three months by Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court yesterday, after he admitted making a hoax call.

Brittan fails to keep his promise on prisoners

By David Cross

The number of remand prisoners in police cells has fallen to its lowest level for some months, but Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, has been unable to honour his pledge to end the practice by the end of the year.

Mr Brittan made his promise at the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool in October after complaints from groups including the Law Society, at the unusually large number of prisoners held in unsuitable police cells because of overcrowding at remand prisons in London. The total reached more than 600 at the end of November after running at more than 400 a day for most of the year.

But the Prison Department said yesterday that the total had fallen to 134 as more prison places for remand prisoners had become available.

One important factor is that Wormwood Scrubs admitted prisoners on holding charges, for the first time this month.

More remand places have also become available at Pentonville, which no longer takes people held on immigration charges. These now go to Ashford prison, Kent.

Radio, Television & Audio. Second Floor. Carriage free within our own delivery area.

All reductions are from Harrods previous prices.

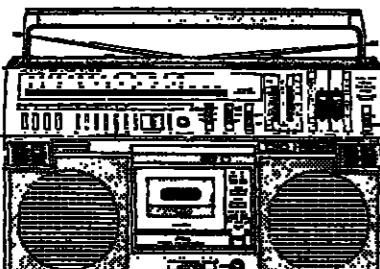
INTEREST-FREE CREDIT AGREEMENTS available on certain items. Ask for written details.

Sale Opening Hours: Until Saturday 14th January 9am to 6pm.

Wednesday 9am to 7pm. From then, 9am to 6pm.

Wednesday 9am to 6pm. Saturdays 9am to 6pm.

HARRODS SALE



Reductions on JVC Audio Equipment

Example illustrated: Stereo Radio Cassette Recorder Model RCM801 12-station random pre-sets on radio. Four speakers. Metal tape facility. Harrods Original Price £279 Sale Price £99

Not shown: Video Cassette Recorder Model HR7655EK VHS with stereo sound facility. Two-speed up to 8 hours recording. Remote control. 14 day/8 event timer.

Harrods Original Price £679 Sale Price £629

JVC Hi-Fi System Amplifier 2 x 50 watts, tuner, turntable, cassette deck with metal tape, two-way speakers and rack.

Harrods Original Price £625 Sale Price £469

All made in Japan.

Radio, Television & Audio. Second Floor.

Carriage free within our own delivery area.

All reductions are from Harrods previous prices.

INTEREST-FREE CREDIT AGREEMENTS available on certain items. Ask for written details.

Sale Opening Hours: Until Saturday 14th January 9am to 6pm.

Wednesday 9am to 7pm. From then, 9am to 6pm.

Wednesday 9am to 6pm. Saturdays 9am to 6pm.

SALE STARTS FRIDAY

6TH JANUARY 9AM TO 6PM



The Mikhail Kalinin at Tilbury yesterday with (bottom left to right) Karpova Laziza, Helga Bezkova and Margarite Vovobjeva, ship's stewardesses, and two disgruntled passengers from Norwich who declined to be named (Photographs: Chris Harris)

Londoners want to keep GLC, poll says

By Richard Dowden

Well over twice as many Londoners are against the Government's plan to abolish the Greater London Council as are for it, according to an opinion poll released yesterday. The Harris Research Centre found that 59 per cent of those questioned said they disapproved of the Government's decision to abolish the GLC, while only 22 per cent said they supported it; 31 per cent of Conservative voters said they disapproved of the plan.

The survey was carried out this month among a representative quota sample of 1,041 people in the Greater London area.

It suggests that Londoners want a single representative body responsible for the capital's services. More than three quarters of those questioned said it was important, and more than half said it was very important.

The survey has little comfort for the Government, which intends to replace the GLC with more powerful boroughs and several joint boards to run some services. Of Conservative voters 65 per cent said they thought it important that the city had an elected body responsible for its services and 30 per cent said they thought the Government had handled the issue badly.

Attitudes over the issue seem to be hardening. More people disapprove of abolition now than in October, when a MORI poll was conducted.

Of those who supported abolition in the Harris poll, 38 per cent said they felt more strongly about the issue now than earlier in the year, and 39 per cent of those who disapproved of abolition said they felt more strongly now.

There appeared to be little difference in attitude between those who lived in inner London or outer London areas.

Reagan should meet Andropov, Owen says

By Our Political Reporter

Dr David Owen, the Social Democratic Party leader and former Labour Foreign Secretary, said yesterday that there would be "great merit" in a summit meeting between President Andropov and President Reagan.

Although Mr Andropov was clearly not well enough at present, and there was no advantage for Mr Reagan in meeting a deputy, there should be an eventual summit to discuss questions of European security, the Middle East and nuclear force reductions.

Dr Owen said that it was "potentially very dangerous" that Mr Andropov was not fit enough to undertake "personal diplomacy". There was great merit in a direct confrontation with Mr Reagan having to match his public rhetoric face-to-face with Mr Andropov, and Mr Andropov doing likewise.

On past experience when leaders had met in this way, they had discussed more common ground than they expected.

Countess fined

Lady Lichfield, the wife of Lord Lichfield, the photographer, was fined £20 with £10 costs by Camberwell magistrates in south London yesterday for failing to pay a parking ticket.

Police assess clues after bombing reconstruction

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

Detainees are still assessing the public response to the weekend reconstruction of the Harrods bombing in London but no one has yet pinpointed when the bomber's car was parked or produced a description of its driver.

The Austin 1300 GT is probably the best clue Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad has to the Provisional IRA active service unit now held responsible for a total of four bombs in two and a half weeks. Police fear the unit will strike again, possibly at a military or political target.

As the heavy police presence on central London's streets continued yesterday for the bombing had been released. Mr Gerry Small, convicted for conspiracy to cause explosions in Birmingham in 1975, was served with an exclusion order, under which he was returned to Belfast.

Police Constable John Gordon, aged 30, the dog handler who lost a leg in the Harrods blast, remained in a critical but stable condition in

Westminster Hospital yesterday.

Two other policemen are also still in hospital. Sergeant Andrew Melham was reported to have had a restless night at St Thomas's but was said to be progressing well. Sergeant Christopher Stanger was described as fairly comfortable in Westminster Hospital.

If that theory is right the bombers fed the meter during the morning and then unlocked the car to set the timing device on the bomb shortly after midday.

Yesterday Scotland Yard announced that the last of the four men held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act a week ago during investigations into the bombing had been released. Mr Gerry Small, convicted for conspiracy to cause explosions in Birmingham in 1975, was served with an exclusion order, under which he was returned to Belfast.

In his sermon Father Wymes attacked the terrorists who murdered six people and injured 90.

The service was at St Joseph's Church, Redhill, Surrey, where Sergeant Lane worshipped.

Stores see curb £1bn

By Peter Hennessy

An increasing number of young people on the new Youth Training Scheme (YTS) are receiving more than the £25 allowance according to the first survey of the YTS in practice, published today by the Labour Research Department in its journal *Bargaining Report*.

Although only one industry, furniture manufacturing, is known to have guaranteed "top-up", unions have negotiated more with some companies and local authorities.

For example, Massey Ferguson at Coventry has agreed to pay the rate for the job - £74.60 a week at 16 - to its trainees, while those in manual grades working for Cleveland Council enjoy similar treatment with a £45.48 rate.

She said the soldier got them out of the building. Outside there was more American soldiers, police dogs and Ministry of Defence police.

● Thirty-two peace protesters, including three Dominican friars, were arrested during a demonstration yesterday at the US nuclear bomber base at Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire (the Press Association reports).

Police said last night that 10 people had been released without charge. The other 22 were still being interviewed. The Prior of Blackfriars, Oxford, confirmed that three of his order had been detained.

The demonstration was by about 200 members of Christian CND. Some of the protesters broke through the perimeter fence. The friars, in white habits, and two women, chained themselves to a cross and prayed for 30 minutes on the concrete apron at the end of the main runway.

The survey shows that unions are successfully fighting attempts to depress the pay levels of young people generally.

Under-18s' overall earnings continue to fall in proportion to adults' earnings, but young workers covered by collective agreements are more likely to maintain their pay relativities.

In an analysis of 245 agreements where unions negotiated a youth rate, the same percentage rise for youth as for adult pay was agreed in 70 per cent of cases.

Pan-Am demands end to 'unfair' Concorde competition

By Tony Samstag

Pan American World Airways has accused the Government and British Airways of unfair competition in its Concorde fare structure and has asked the American authorities to suspend those fares.

British Airways denied yesterday that its Concorde flights on the Atlantic route were unfairly subsidized. It added: "Concorde is making a useful contribution to profits. The fares are certainly not below costs."

Pan-Am's complaint, filed on Tuesday with the US Civil Aeronautical Board, alleges that British Airways has been allowed to set fares "virtually at part with first class fares on subsonic aircraft" on its routes between London and New York and Washington. The Concorde return fare between London and New York is £2,399; first-class travel on a British Airways subsonic Boeing 747 is £1,986. The difference, about 20 per cent, remained fairly constant since 1977.

Concorde's operating profit, which British Airways estimates at about £10m this year, is made possible in large part by savings in capital cost. The airline was in effect given seven Concorde by the Government after an Anglo-French development project to which this country paid £900m.

This year's profits, about 80 per cent of which are to be paid back to the Government, have benefited from a variety of charter contracts, including a recent £5.5m deal with Cunard for a combination package with cruises on QE2.

Pan-Am's application in which it says Concorde's fare structure has caused a significant amount of first class traffic to be diverted from US flag carriers to British Airways,

comes during a US price war on flights to Britain. Some budget packages, with restricted times of travel, offer savings of about 50 per cent on full fares.

The issue of Concorde has been "a simple, running and festering problem" in bilateral fare negotiations for some time, a spokesman for Pan-Am said yesterday. "It is a classic case of capacity-dumping."

Some American airlines have also been showing concern at British Airways' application to extend its service to Miami by way of Washington, creating a profitable British gateway to South America.

Pan-Am estimates that first-class fares, lost to Concorde total about £20m a year. Provisional figures show that the number of Concorde passengers grew this year by 2.6 per cent, with 75,000 travelling to and from New York and 10,000 to and from Washington.

Pan-Am's own fare structure means that Concorde prices for the New York-London route are only 10.2 per cent more than the first-class fare on an American subsonic aircraft. From Washington the difference is only 3.7 per cent. The American carriers argue that Concorde fares should be about 50 per cent above their subsonic first-class equivalents.

CONCORDE AND ITS RIVALS

| | Concorde | First Class (subsonic) | APEX |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Fare to New York | £2,399 | £1,928 | £2,000-2,049 |
| Fare to Washington | £2,425 | £2,258 | £2,025-2,049 |
| Time to New York | 3hr 55min | 7hr 40min | 7hr 40min |
| Time to Washington | 4hr 20min | 8hr 15min | 8hr 15min |
| Lay room | 32in | 60in | 30in |
| Perks | Free drinks and food | Free drinks and food | Separate check-in |
| | Concorde lounge | Separate check-in | Executive lounge |
| All fares British Airways return | | | |

Building boom for private houses

By John Young

Private house-building is enjoying its best period since the mid-1970s, and the market should remain buoyant next year, according to the latest figures from the National House-Building Council (NHBC) and two leading building societies.

Mr Andrew Tait, director general of the NHBC, said yesterday that new building starts this year were estimated at 170,000, the best for more than 10 years. Completions were 24 per cent up, at 152,000, the highest for seven years.

There were now 100,000 more jobs in private housing than three years ago, helping to compensate for losses in other parts of the construction industry, he said.

Among the reasons for the expanded market were the building of smaller units and the introduction of financial packages that made it easier for first-time buyers to meet the initial payments.

Predictions for next year were complicated by uncertainty over United States interest rates and an adequate supply of building land. But underlying potential demand remained strong as more people set up

Drink-drive worry for police chief

By John Young

new homes in smaller households.

The best guess was that both starts and completions in the private sector should exceed 150,000, and more if interest rates fell.

Average house prices are estimated by the Nationwide Building Society to have risen by 12 per cent. The Leeds Permanent puts the figure somewhat lower at 9.4 per cent, but both societies point out that the increase is well above the rate of inflation.

Nationwide calculates that the average price of a home at the end of this year was £28,720, and the average mortgage £20,030. But there were wide variations between regions, increases ranging from 16 per cent to 18 per cent in London and the South-east to 7 per cent in Wales and Northern Ireland.

Although the house price index is nearly three times that of 10 years ago, it has increased more slowly than the retail price index.

But Mr Malcolm Hughes, the society's general manager (market planning), said yesterday that he expected house prices next year to continue to catch up on their long term relationship with average earnings.

Stores seek ways to curb £1bn vandalism

By a Staff Reporter

The year just ending has seen a wave of damage to and theft from shops that, according to one estimate, will have cost Britain's stores £1,000m.

One London company that supplies vandal-proof materials has completed a survey which shows, according to its sales director, Mr Tom Ellison, that the past year has shown an even greater increase in the problem than in previous years.

Spray-can graffiti are still much in evidence and sharp instruments are being used to damage shopfronts and interior fittings.

The findings of the company, Rigidized Metals, which sent its salesmen to carry out interviews in 200 stores, are borne out by Lady Phillips, director of the Association for the Prevention of Theft in Shops. She is supporting a private member's Bill on trespass to be introduced in the House of Lords.

"It's so amusing to me to read about the problems of shoplifting by poor little old ladies when you know what things are really like," she said. "I believe the Bill, which would make trespass a criminal offence, would help this problem."

Video phone promised

A video conference service to enable transatlantic "face to face" discussions will be launched by British Telecom next year, its chairman, Sir George Jefferson, said yesterday.

The video conference terminal, developed with other European telephone organizations, will allow high-quality pictures to be transmitted over telephone lines.

It is hoped that a similar British facility, to be called

VideoStream, will also be introduced next year.

The equipment is bulky, so British Telecom expects the service to appeal to business rather than personal users.

In a new year message to customers and staff, Sir George said that 1984 would go down "as the year when the communications system of the twenty-first century began to take shape".

The equipment is bulky, so British Telecom expects the service to appeal to business rather than personal users.

In a new year message to customers and staff, Sir George said that 1984 would go down "as the year when the communications system of the twenty-first century began to take shape".

There was less reason to discount votes this year than last year, and very few were



Tea and sympathy: Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, handing out hot drinks to homeless people at a warehouse in Vauxhall, south London, yesterday. The centre was used by Crisis at Christmas for five days to provide food and shelter to the single homeless. "I hope more people will be prepared to identify themselves with the unemployed", Mr Murray said (Photograph: John Voos).

Sightseeing in England

Pleasure parks grow in popularity

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

New tourist attractions, from heritage centres to adventure rides in mechanized pleasure parks, kept up the number of sightseers in 1982 despite a drop in popularity of longer established attractions, according to an English Tourist Board report published yesterday.

But the most popular attraction was the Science Museum (3.3 million visits), while the Tower of London was the most popular among those charging admissions (1.9 million).

The British Museum (2.7 million) moved from fourth to second position, overtaking the National Gallery (2.6 million) and the National History Museum (2.3 million).

Stratford-upon-Avon, the Potters and the Potteries, and the Tudor towers, the survey suggests.

Kettering's Wicksteed Park added five rides, including a

roller coaster and a pirate ship, during 1982. Admissions rose from 750,000 in 1981 to 1.25 million.

Alton Towers, on the edge of the Potteries and strongly influenced by Disneyland, has several adventure rides, including a double corkscrew roller coaster.

The appeal to young adults has widened the attraction of leisure and amusement parks when a birthrate reduction could have affected them in line with the decline in visits over the past six years to wildlife parks, the survey suggests.

Direct comparisons with the 157 million visitors in 1981 cannot be made because of the inclusion of new attractions.

But visits to historic buildings dropped by 1 per cent and those to museums and wildlife centres by 2 per cent.

Heritage centres, of which a

score have opened since Chester pioneered the idea in 1975, are benefiting from an increase in general sightseeing in historic towns, the survey says.

There were 161 million sightseeing visits last year, of which museums and galleries accounted for 51 million; historic buildings 48 million; wildlife attractions 16 million; and gardens more than seven million.

But the adjudication adds: "By bringing the incident of the released pet into the programme, however, the BBC had raised the issue of pet stealing and the validity of the argument whether or not the university either stole or used stolen pets became a major issue".

The commission accepted that the programme producer believed from her research that the released pet had been stolen, but it was not satisfied on the evidence presented to it that the case had been proved.

Call for immediate ban on 'risk' drugs

By Thomson Prentice, Medical Reporter

The delay in banning "potentially hazardous" cold remedies from sale in chemists shops without prescriptions was putting many people at risk, Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent South, said yesterday. He called for the immediate withdrawal of the products.

But the Department of Health and Social Security said its plan to limit the remedies 12 months from now was "purely a precautionary measure" and that there was no cause for concern.

The department has written to drug manufacturers asking them to reduce the content of phenylpropanolamine (PPA), an ingredient that helps to dry runny noses, in their products.

PPA has been reported to have side effects including dangerously high blood pressure, heart problems, strokes, and hallucinations.

"Our proposal is that later in 1984 we should introduce regulations which will say that if a product has more than 25 milligrams of PPA in a single

£100 fine for smoking in court

A man was fined £100 for contempt of court yesterday after he lit a cigarette in the public gallery at West London Magistrates' Court. He had also drunk a cup of coffee in the gallery.

The magistrate, Mr Eric Crowther, had ordered Stephen Miles, aged 19, a warehouse manager, of Westbury Road, Ealing, west London, to be arrested as he waited for his brother to appear on a charge of threatening behaviour.

Mr Ashley has written to Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, saying:

"The ban you are imposing is only to come into effect in 12 months. This is an indefensible delay which puts drug company profits before the health of the people.

"If the drugs are too risky for over-the-counter sales in 12 months' time, they are too risky now."

The department has invited the manufacturers to respond to its letter by January 16.

A High Court judge gave

leave yesterday to a teacher to challenge her dismissal from Orleans Infants' school by Richmond upon Thames Borough Council in south-west London and to seek an order directing the council to allow her to teach in a suitable school.

Princess Asolkamala Lakshmi Tammiti-Delgado, of Lower Richmond Road, Richmond, who is supported by the Asian Teacher's Forum, says the council acted unfairly and unlawfully in accepting the school governors' dismissal recommendation.

Olivier home to write book

Lord Olivier, who left St Thomas's Hospital, London, on December 23 after a kidney operation, is preparing to write a book to be called *Olivier on Acting*.

The actor, aged 76, is also to appear in an Anglia Television play, *Lonesong*, by Jeffrey Archer, in May.

Audi recalls 4,000 cars

Audi is recalling up to 4,000 of the 100 series models in Britain after reports of the left rear brake hose chafing against a retaining clip.

"There is a risk of one of the two circuits failing during use", a company official said. But the driver would still have a back-up circuit.

TV for budgie

Bluey the budgerigar got his own three-inch £250 colour television set for Christmas, as a gift from his owner, Mrs Elizabeth Porter, aged 36, of Cumpstey Road, Litherland, Merseyside.

Fire kills three

Samuel Kelly, aged 62, his daughter Caffierine, aged 28, and his granddaughter Susan, aged 9, died yesterday in a fire, believed to have been started by Christmas tree lights, at their home in Cork.

Leading article, page 11

BBC rabbit vivisection report criticized

By David Hewson

A complaint against the BBC by Sheffield University has been partly upheld after a television programme aired allegations that stolen rabbits were used for vivisection experiments in a university laboratory.

The *Forty Minutes* documentary *Rabbits Don't Cry*, broadcast on October 21 last year, reported that a stolen pet had been found at Lodge Moor laboratory and was later reunited with its owner. The director of the laboratory had refused to be interviewed on the programme, but the BBC accepted that the university was innocent of the theft.

However, the Broadcasting Complaints Commission has ruled that the programme implied that on other occasions stolen pets would have been found at the laboratory.

"As the university were given no opportunity to rebut the allegations, the commission have no doubt that viewers could have concluded from the programme that the university stole, or used, stolen pets. This was unfair", the commission's adjudication, published today, says.

The university complained that undue prominence was given to placards and comments from protesters alleging that stolen pets were used, through, after some of the protesters had been allowed into the laboratory, the presenter concluded: "The protesters found no evidence of stolen pets at Lodge Moor on this visit".

The commission did not uphold the university's complaint that the filming of the protesters was unfair.

But the adjudication adds: "By bringing the incident of the released pet into the programme, however, the BBC had raised the issue of pet stealing and the validity of the argument whether or not the university either stole or used stolen pets became a major issue".

The commission accepted that the programme producer believed from her research that the released pet had been stolen, but it was not satisfied on the evidence presented to it that the case had been proved.

Postal Services in London W12

The three-week postal strike in the W12 district of London is now over and mail addressed to the area is being delivered.

It will take some time to deal with the huge backlog of mail caused by the dispute. However, the Post Office is giving as normal service as possible to newly posted items, while simultaneously tackling the large backlog.

The Post Office apologises to customers for the

Israel reviews Lebanon policy in attempt to cut casualty list

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

A sweeping review of Israel's security policy in southern Lebanon is being conducted by military chiefs and new proposals aimed at cutting down the continuing high rate of Israeli casualties are due to be presented to the government for approval early next year.

Lieutenant General Moshe Levy, the Chief of Staff, claimed yesterday that the continuing presence in southern Lebanon remained vital for the security of Israel's northern border.

He confirmed that a key aspect of the review remained the policy of maintaining open bridges along the Awali River, now Israel's front line. There is strong pressure inside the army for the bridges to be shut to reduce the flow of explosives used for ambushes, but that

would lead to the virtual partition of Lebanon.

Since the middle of September, over 40 Israelis have been killed in southern Lebanon, including the 29 who died in the Tyre suicide bombing. The latest attack took place yesterday when one soldier was killed and two wounded near the town of Jezzine.

Another suggestion is a second withdrawal to a new front line along the Zahran River. Such a controversial move would put the main south Lebanon city of Sidon outside Israeli control, and could have serious economic and social consequences in Lebanon.

In recent weeks, most of the attacks against Israeli targets have been concentrated in the Sidon area, and the approach

road to the city along the coast is now known to disgruntled Israeli soldiers as "bomb alley". Army officers acknowledge that opinion is divided about the desirability of a second withdrawal southwards.

General Levy paid an unexpected compliment to the retrained Lebanese Army about which Israeli commanders have been boasting in the past. The Chief of Staff said that he was surprised at its efficiency. Its men, plus the Lebanese Druze militia, were capable of controlling terrorism in the area, he said.

• CAIRO: A senior Egyptian foreign ministry representative will visit Israel today for talks on bilateral issues (Reuters reports).

Arafat to convene Fatah talks in Tunis

Tunis (AFP) - Mr Yassir Arafat is expected here tonight to convene a meeting of the leadership of Fatah, the divided Palestine Liberation Organization's leading component.

Some Fatah central committee members are already here, waiting to ask Mr Arafat why he met President Mubarak of Egypt last week in Cairo. Others may boycott the meeting altogether.

Mr Arafat's meeting with President Mubarak has been widely criticized within the PLO, which strongly condemned the Egyptian peace agreement with Israel and subsequently refused contacts with Cairo.

ADEN: About 580 PLO fighters, including 52 families, evacuated from Lebanon with Mr Arafat, have arrived in South Yemen to join another 1,000 men evacuated from Beirut after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. (Reuters reports).

Mr Arafat is at present in Sanaa, North Yemen, where he and other PLO leaders have been working out a new strategy.

Assad fear allayed by editor

Paris (NYT) - A French magazine editor, who interviewed President Hafez al-Assad of Syria last week said the President had told him he was convalescing but had not specified the nature of his illness.

M Michel Columes, the managing editor of the weekly news magazine *Le Point*, described Mr Assad as looking, all in all, rather well. He believed that he and a reporter for *Le Point* Mireille Duteil, were the first Westerners to see the President in over a month.

President Assad has not been seen in public since the middle of November, and there has been speculation in Western capitals about his health, with some reports suggesting that he was partly paralysed.

M Columes and Mireille Duteil talked with Mr Assad for about an hour and a half last Tuesday in a small, private house near Damascus. Their interview was originally scheduled to last 15 minutes.

When the President walked into the room, M Columes said, he was slightly stooped. "He walked with relative precaution. He didn't walk like a guy normally does."

The editor said he had heard outside Syria that Mr Assad's right side had been affected by his illness.

Beirut tries to save fragile truce

Beirut (Reuters) - A fragile truce between the Lebanese Army and Shia militiamen held for the second day yesterday as a special security committee met in an effort to devise a lasting peace.

The committee met for the first time after the representative for the Shia Amal movement agreed to suspend his boycott. The army, Druze Progressive Socialist Party and Christian coalition, known as the "Lebanese Forces", are also represented on the four-man committee.

No significant violations of the truce were reported yesterday but Beirut radio said a mortar shell landed near an army position in the eastern sector of the battle zone in Beirut's southern suburbs, wounding two civilians.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Minister, Mr Elias Salem, met the American, French and Italian ambassadors to discuss their views on the presence of

Freed Zimbabwe officers on their way home

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

The last three Zimbabwean Air Force officers of the group detained over aircraft sabotage are due to fly out of here tonight on one-way tickets.

Wing Commander John Cox, aged 36, Air Lieutenant Barrington Lloyd, aged 31, and Air Lieutenant Neville Weir, aged 24, were released from Chikurukuru maximum security prison last Thursday and given a week to sort out their affairs.

They had spent the last 16 months in custody, although acquitted in August of charges of involvement in the Thornhill sabotage operation last year.

Wing Commander Cox and

Grenada visit seen as Strauss manoeuvre

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Among the many diplomatic and political coups of Herr Franz Josef Strauss, the ambitious Prime Minister of Bavaria, his unexpected visit to Grenada must count as one of his cleverest attempts to influence German foreign policy while increasing his party's weight in the Bonn coalition and his own visibility on the world stage.

Herr Strauss, interrupting a Caribbean holiday, arrived in St George's with his wife on Tuesday from Florida after an aircraft had been put at his disposal. He said Bonn and the European Community should support the beginning of democracy in the island, and

pointedly emphasized his approval of American actions in Grenada.

Herr Strauss met Mr Nicholas Braithwaite, leader of the interim administration, and flew round the island to visit the sites of the recent fighting. He called his trip a "political information journey" to acquaint himself with the situation.

The Grenada issue was a main point of disagreement within the coalition after Herr Strauss forcefully condemned the initial disapproval for the American actions from Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister.

Iran's economy under strain

Oil repairs ravages of war and ideology

By Richard Dowden

"One pound and a half, one thousand rial, very cheap", said the Tehran shopkeeper, a rather despondent old man with a stall of cheap jewelry.

"But a pound is only 130 rials", I said, puzzled.

"You change it on black market you get 700 rial, maybe more", said the shopkeeper.

"Would you take British pounds?" I asked.

"No, it's too dangerous, but many people will."

We broke off negotiations. A combination of shortages, inflation and very strict controls on foreign currency has given the Iranian economy some peculiar twists.

Prices tend to follow the black market price for the dollar, so that anyone buying in Iran with money changed at the official rate pays about seven or eight times the real price. Foreign currency and imported goods are in great demand but penalties for black marketing are fierce.

Basic foodstuffs are rationed and cheap but on the black market prices are erratic. For example, every family is entitled to 6 kilos (13lb) of rice per



All in favour: Members of the Politburo voting during a meeting of the Supreme Soviet (front left to right): Andrei Gromyko, Konstantin Chernenko, Nikolai Tikhonov; (second row): Grigory Romanov, Viktor Grishin, Mikhail Gorbachov; (third row): Boris Ponomaryov (candidate member), Dzhumukhamed Kunayev, Mikhail Solomentsev, and three unnamed in the back row, one with voting rights.

Symbols of continuity at Supreme Soviet

From Richard Owen, Moscow

There was none of the mild excitement which gripped the Supreme Soviet this time last year, when the 1,500 deputies not only raised their hands in automatic approval of party resolutions but also studied the *Pravda* text of the new leader's first speech and stared at him sitting on the platform.

Yesterday, it was Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, aged 75, Prime Minister to both President Brezhnev and President Andropov, who sat in the hot seat, a symbol of reassurance and experience but not of impending change.

Further along in the front row were Mr Konstantin Chernenko, Mr Andropov's blue-haired but vigorous rival, and two more symbols of continuity: Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, and Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, the Defence Minister.

Earlier there were rumours that Mr

Tikhonov was on the way out and might be replaced as Prime Minister either by Mr Gaidar Aliyev, the ambitious former Azerbaijani leader, aged 60, or by Mr Vitaly Vorotnikov, aged 57, President Andropov's old protégé, who on Monday rose with meteoric speed to become a full Politburo member. But yesterday, at least there were no surprises and neither Mr Aliyev nor Mr Vorotnikov looked as if they were about to take over.

Down in the body of the hall the deputies, drawn from all over the Soviet Union, sat reading documents in a neat blue folder.

Other deputies are less anonymous: Mr Andrei Kirilenko, once Brezhnev's chosen successor but removed from the Politburo by Mr Andropov last year, appeared briefly, a ghost from the past, occasionally glancing up at the platform.

Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, the Chief of

Staff, walked about the hall in uniform, gripping deputies' elbows and holding deep discussions, possibly on President Reagan's anxieties about "hellicose state-

ists" by "top Soviet military leaders".

He returned to his seat, the only delegate without a blue folder, and sat impassively with his hands gripping the cleared desk-top. In front of him Professor Georgy Arbatov, the Kremlin's top American expert, sat reading *Pravda*, while Mr Balakov, the head of Gosplan, the State Planning Committee, gave a methodical recitation of industrial statistics.

As fresh falls of snow drifted past the high windows of the Great Hall, most deputies chatted, dozed or read. Mr Gromyko's Monday speech, in which he said Russia's production included 500,000 television sets, 115,000 radios and 250,000 cameras, which did not work.

Summing up begins in Simonstown spy trial

From Michael Horwitz, Johannesburg

The Judge-President of the Cape, Mr Justice G. G. A. Mumuk, yesterday began delivery "in camera" of his judgment in one of South Africa's most sensational spy trials. His verdict is expected today.

On trial on charges of high treason, which carry a maximum penalty of death by hanging, are Commodore Dietrich Gerhardt, the former commander of the dockyard at the Simonstown naval base, and his wife, Ruth, both pleaded not guilty when the trial began on September 5.

Commodore Gerhardt is accused of having spied for the Soviet Union for 21 years, and Mrs Gerhardt, his second wife, is alleged to have helped him since 1970 to maintain a secret communications network with agents used by the USSR "by means of so-called dead-letter boxes and/or drops, radio transmissions, couriers and personal visits to foreign countries to communicate with said agents".

The indictment was read

during an open session lasting only 10 minutes at the start of the trial. Since then all proceedings have been held in secret.

The case has aroused con-

siderable interest in Britain

and the US where there is

speculation that Commodore

Gerhardt could have passed to

the Russians contingency

plans for possible use by the West of

the Simonstown naval base in

the event of a world war.

Museum doubles its space

New York (NYT) - The Museum of Modern Art will close next Wednesday for four months to complete the \$55m (£36m) expansion and renovation project that began in the autumn of 1980.

What the museum was able to put on display was tiny in proportion to the collection's size, he continued. "I am not just talking about painting and sculpture but also about the museum's other departments, which will now be much more visible."

The project has involved the renovation of all facilities and construction of a west wing that will more than double the exhibition space and enable the museum to put almost twice as many works on display. In addition, a 44-storey residential tower has been completed above the new wing by a private developer, who paid the museum \$17m in property rights. Some tenants have already moved in.

When the 54-year-old museum reopens in May the departments of painting and sculpture, architecture and design, photography, drawings, prints and illustrated books will have their own galleries for the first time and the film department will have a second.

Despite doubling in size and what Mr Oldenburg sees as a probable parallel increase in attendance, the museum expects to keep its previous character.

During the museum's long reorganization and reinstatement, many logistical and aesthetic problems arose. The library and museum shop have had to move and many members of the staff had to move their offices to other buildings, sometimes more than once.

The reinstatement has in-

volved elaborate plans on paper, mock-ups, and for the department of painting and sculpture, what Mr Rubin calls "dry runs". By the time the new installation is completed, almost all the roughly 700 paintings and sculptures on display will have been tested in place.

"All the way through we have had dry runs," Mr Rubin said. "We have had to check framing, we have had to worry about pedestals. There may have to be changes in the ceiling lighting, in the fixtures, and above all in the size and positioning of the walls."

Sculpture poses a special problem. "There is no way to know how to block sculptures and know the angles without trying it," Mr Rubin said. "For example, in the Miro gallery we had an Arp on a projection from the wall. Until we saw it in place, we couldn't see that it was blocking so much of the room."

Despite installation, the museum's director of painting and sculpture, architecture and design, photography, drawings, prints and illustrated books will have their own galleries for the first time and the film department will have a second.

The old building was not built to accommodate its attendance, said Mr Richard Oldenburg, director of the museum. "When they opened the museum, they imagined there would be 500 visitors a day. We had 7,000 visitors a

day with the Picasso exhibition in 1980."

What the museum was able to put on display was tiny in proportion to the collection's size, he continued. "I am not just talking about painting and sculpture but also about the museum's other departments, which will now be much more visible."

The case has aroused con-

siderable interest in Britain

and the US where there is

speculation that Commodore

Gerhardt could have passed to

the Russians contingency

plans for possible use by the West of

the Simonstown naval base in

the event of a world war.

The strict import controls imposed because of the war have hampered development and shortages have created an inflation rate of between 20 and 40 per cent. Unemployment is running at between three and four million, or about 20 per cent of the workforce.

Meanwhile, the bigger *bazaars* are making more money than they did under the Shah, and their inclination is to get it transferred into dollars and out of the country as fast as they can. Failure to come to terms with their wealth and power could cost the Government the support of its younger revolutionaries, who are inspired by ideals of social justice.

The second problem comes with the plan to Islamicize the economy. There is no working model of an Islamic economy, and the Government is trying to abolish bank interest in accordance with the Koran's prohibition on usury.

But the main economic problems facing the Government have political roots. The first is the power of the *bazaars*.

Basic foodstuffs are rationed

and cheap but on the black

market prices are erratic. For

example, every family is entitled to 6 kilos (13lb) of rice per

week at 190 rials per kilo (about £1.50). On the black market rice has sometimes reached 1,100 rials a kilo.

Ration cards are distributed

gladesh
olling
pended
er riots

l labour
tonians

l labour
tonians

rian coup
adjoined

Rebel
military
with a
General
General

al scandal

meat ban

ation delay

art refusal

it's for Zhao

ish congress

accused

Canon Christopher Hill, the Archbishop's adviser on ecclesiastical affairs, said yesterday: "It is understood that Father Calciu's wife visited him last month and found that he spends long periods in solitary confinement. She said his hands were blue and swollen after being beaten by guards who saw him praying. Father Calciu is a distinguished man whom Dr Runcie wishes to help."

Economic reality makes East Germany Bonn's reluctant friend

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

As a sombre and difficult year for West Germany comes to an end, Bonn is looking optimistically at the one area in international relations where things seem to be brighter than for many years - relations with East Germany.

There are strong hopes here that the extraordinary momentum in strengthening links can be continued. The Kohl Government has already dismissed as unfounded talk of a new "Ice Age" between the two German states as a result of West German deployment of NATO missiles.

Diplomatic negotiations with East Berlin over the Berlin surface railway have almost come to a successful conclusion; more talks are due on other areas of cooperation. East Germany is continuing to dismantle automatic firing devices along the frontier and Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, is expected to make his postponed visit here in the coming year.

No one in the Chancellor's office or the Ministry for Inner-German Relations is under any illusion that the apparent thaw is the result of a change of heart of newly-discovered benevolence towards the Federal Republic among senior party officials. Bonn knows that East Germany is now so dependent economically on West Germany that it cannot afford to antagonise its neighbour.

A look at the figures shows why the relationship is so vital if Herr Honecker is to fulfil his promise to raise living standards and thus win greater popular acceptance for the communist regime.

The world recession has hurt East Germany. Oil deliveries from the Soviet Union have been cut. The country is heavily indebted to the West, owing \$9.400m (£6.270m). More than 80 per cent of Western currency earnings are

used to service its debts. And valuable export markets in the West have shrunk with that small amount.

Yet trade between the two states had developed rapidly. In the first six months of this year, West Germany exported the equivalent of DM4.300m (£1.050m) worth of goods - an increase of 33 per cent on the first half of 1982. East German exports to the Federal Republic rose 2 per cent to DM3.600m. Total turnover this year is expected to reach DM15.000m.

There will be a small imbalance of about DM500m in West Germany's favour in 1983 - worrying for East Berlin, which enjoyed a surplus in trade with Bonn in earlier years. East Germany also owes a total of DM1.500m to West German firms for goods already bought.

But East Germany enjoys one vital advantage in trade with its Western neighbour: back-door access to a leading member of the European Community. A protocol to the Treaty of Rome allows West Germany to import East German goods without their facing the Common Community Tariff Barrier. This privilege is surprisingly little abused. Only 0.8 per cent of these imports were sent on duty-free to other Community countries - and Bonn is vigilant

in trying to stamp out even that small amount.

There is strict limitation on East German agricultural exports. But the country has one milch cow which provides it with vast sums of money. West Berlin, Bonn's payments for access to the divided former capital are colossal, amounting last year to a lump sum of DM525m for transit rights, 50m for the use of East German roads, 60.3m for the building and repair of roads and access roads, 37.5m in canal dues, 24m for railway operations and 36m for the environment.

On top of all this, Bonn last year granted credit facilities of DM1.000m. Ironically, according to post-war regulations, West German banks are not permitted to grant credit to East Germany (though they have been lavish with funds for Poland and the Soviet Union). The consortium granting the DM 1.000m had to rely on branches overseas.

But already there is talk - hotly denied by Bonn - that another big credit arrangement is in the offing. For such a thing to be possible, East Germany had to convince Bonn that it is serious in wanting to improve bilateral relations. And that is why inner-German relations are looking so comparatively rosy.



Give and take: Dr Kohl (left) and Herr Honecker.

Dr Runcie to appeal for tortured priest

By Michael Horsnell

Dr Robert Runcie, the Archbishop of Canterbury, has been asked to intervene to secure the release from prison of a Romanian Orthodox priest who has allegedly been beaten on the hands to prevent him making the sign of the cross.

The condition of Father Gheorghe Calciu-Dumitrescu, aged 56, who has been incarcerated at Jilava near Bucharest for five years, is said to be poor.

Father Calciu, who has been in and out of prison for 20 years because of his faith and support for a banned free trade union, was the subject of a free trade union by Dr Runcie when he visited Romania last year.

Since then, it is understood by the British Romanian Association in London, which has asked Dr Runcie to help, he has been beaten with a stick by guards. It is believed that Dr Runcie will make a private appeal to the Romanian Ambassador.

Canon Christopher Hill, the Archbishop's adviser on ecclesiastical affairs, said yesterday: "It is understood that Father Calciu's wife visited him last month and found that he spends long periods in solitary confinement. She said his hands were blue and swollen after being beaten by guards who saw him praying. Father Calciu is a distinguished man whom Dr Runcie wishes to help."

Kabul stages anti-US protest

Islamabad (AP) - The start of the fifth year of Soviet occupation of Afghanistan was marked by an anti-American demonstration in Kabul, according to Western diplomats here.

It was staged by the Soviet-backed Babrak Karmal regime on Christmas Day.

Soviet troops crossed into Afghanistan to back up the faltering communist regime there on December 27, 1979. There are now reported to be 105,000 Soviet troops bogged down in a military stalemate with Muslim insurgents.

Sources said an estimated 20,000 pro-regime demonstrators, looking "glum and unenthusiastic" because of being forced to march in severe cold, wound their way past the American Embassy. The regime-controlled media claimed there were 100,000 demonstrators chanting slogans against American involvement in Central America.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry also held a news conference the same afternoon to "protest against US aggression in Afghanistan".

Tight security in Kabul, with most of the important intersections guarded by Soviet soldiers, did not allow a promised "spectacular action" of resistance on December 27. However, the mujahidin claim to have killed five Soviet soldiers

Barely three weeks after he stepped down as President of Argentina, retired General Reynaldo Bignone finds himself embroiled in investigations into human rights violations during the seven years of military rule.

General Bignone is to testify today, as an indicted party, on the abduction and disappearance in 1978 of a Buenos Aires laboratory technician. He was indicted last week in a separate court investigation into the kidnapping and presumed murder of two young Communist Party members in 1976.

The cases coincide with bold initiatives by Argentina's newly-inaugurated civilian Government to get to the bottom of the military's so-called "dirty war" against left-wing terrorism.

More than 6,000 Argentines are believed to have been abducted and murdered by state security and armed forces personnel after the military seized power in 1976. The military regime proclaimed an amnesty in September this year, which protected from prosecution members of the security agencies and armed forces who carried out what the military calls "repression of subversion" and what human rights groups describe as "genocide."

Repeal of the amnesty was a campaign promise of President Raúl Alfonsín and was signed into law by him on Tuesday.

Bignone facing second indictment as 'dirty war' inquiry expands

From Our Correspondent, Buenos Aires

Meanwhile, the Foreign Minister, Señor Dante Caputo, has announced that Argentina and Chile could be on the way to a settlement of their long-running southern border dispute.

General Bignone is to testify today, as an indicted party, on the abduction and disappearance in 1978 of a Buenos Aires laboratory technician. He was indicted last week in a separate court investigation into the kidnapping and presumed murder of two young Communist Party members in 1976.

The conflict involves sovereignty over islands in the Beagle Channel, near the southern tip of the continent.

Señor Caputo said on Tuesday that he saw the possibility of a basic agreement with Chile "in a relatively short time". The dispute brought the countries to the brink of war five years ago.

The Foreign minister would not confirm persistent reports in the local press that he and his Chilean opposite number, Señor Miguel Schweizer, had a summit in Rome on the Beagle dispute.

President Raúl Alfonsín repeatedly promised during his election campaign to bring a swift end to the conflict. He accused the military regimes in both countries of using it to divert public attention from domestic political repression and economic deterioration.

President Raúl Alfonsín has agreed to a six-month extension of the redistribution programme, giving about 60,000 peasants another chance to buy land.

The extension applies to the third phase of the three-part programme, which allows peasants to buy up to 17.5 acres they were previously rented. American advisers estimate that 117,000 peasants have the right to buy such land, but only 57,000 have done so despite two previous extensions.

Many of them have been threatened by landowners, or their land is in areas where fighting is taking place.

This legislative victory for landless peasants comes after the assembly voted earlier this month to halve the amount of land available for the second phase of the redistribution programme. This phase, which has not yet been carried out, would transfer the ownership of middle-sized farms to peasant cooperatives. Most of them grow coffee, cotton or sugar, the main export crops.

The land available under the third phase is used by peasants for growing basic grains.

Under the first phase, the Government bought the largest farms, and is now in the process of turning them over to cooperatives.

The fight to extend the third phase was led by the Christian Democrats, supported by the Democratic Action Party and the conservative Authentic Salvadorean Institutional Party.

A report from Moscow said the journalists visited the Pulicarhi prison in Kabul and were told 250 political prisoners were held there.

Officials remarked that the number was low compared to the level of 17,000 during the rule of former President Hafizullah Amin, killed when the Russians ousted him in 1979 and installed the Karmal regime.

The Russians told the journalists they could "put down insurrections" in Afghanistan quickly because they had much experience "in the pacification of bandits" in places where conditions were far worse.

THE TIMES THURSDAY DECEMBER 29 1983

OVERSEAS NEWS

5



Together again: Giorgio Calissoni being comforted in hospital by his sister Laura after his release by kidnappers who slashed off his ear to reinforce their ransom demand. They held Giorgio, 17, and his mother Anna Bulgari from November 19 until releasing them on Christmas Eve.

Hunger strike in Sardinia jail

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The maximum security wing of a Sardinian prison where at least seven terrorists are on hunger strike is in the news after the Pope's highly publicized visit to the Turkish terrorist Ali Agca in a Rome jail.

Seven condemned terrorists began a hunger strike on December 8 as a protest against what they claim to be excessive restrictions. From December 23 the protest became more serious when the men refused milk and sugar and accepted only water. There is now a suggestion that they may be fed intravenously.

Up to the end of November,

crimes attributed to terrorists were down by 30 per cent, compared with the previous year.

The Pope's action follows a new path being laid down by the Roman Catholic Church in dealing with the problem of prisons. Last month a meeting of prison chaplains, presided over by Cardinal Martini, the Archbishop of Milan, insisted on the need for protecting human rights and strongly attacked the weakest moral link in Italian justice which is the long wait before trial.

The Sardinian protest comes at a crucial moment for Italian justice. Crime appears to be under control more effectively than at any time in the last decade with the exception of drug traffic.

Up to the end of November,

EEC presidency changes hands

Britain holds key to future

The EEC is expected to run short if all the money it needs from next July. In this third and final article, Ian Murray, looks at the way in which Britain is seeking to exploit this financial crisis to win a lasting solution to its own budget problems.

Britain, to the mounting frustration of the other member states, now holds the key to the future of the EEC. It does so because the Community must run out of money and stagnate if Mrs Thatcher is not prepared to increase the amount paid over to the EEC.

Part 3 because the Community must run out of money and stagnate if Mrs Thatcher is not prepared to increase the amount paid over to the EEC.

Mrs Thatcher has set two very clear conditions for agreeing to any such increase. They are that agricultural spending must not only be contained but progressively decrease as a percentage of the total budget.

Secondly, she is insisting that member states should be required to pay over to the budget only a contribution that is both fair and in line with their ability to pay.

It was failure to meet these two conditions which led to the collapse of the Athens summit. British officials and ministers involved in the negotiations remain insistent that Britain

was not, and is not, isolated. But Athens was a fiasco because Britain was not satisfied.

The other member states have therefore to decide what extent they are willing or able to meet Mrs Thatcher's conditions. Some still cling to the belief that she may be obliged to go against her better judgment and withhold contributions to the budget.

She would, of course, do so because rebate money, due to Britain, was not paid. At the moment Britain claims that it is still owed £42m net from 1982, plus the £457m which has just been frozen by the European Parliament. If this were not paid by the end of the British financial year on March 31, there would be enormous political pressure to withhold at least something.

Given the extremely parsimonious nature of Community finances, a half to any part of Britain's 2100m a month net contribution would plunge the EEC into debt immediately.

At the same time Mrs Thatcher is aware that by September at the latest, and probably before, the Community will run out of money anyway.

If she withholds payment, Britain will take the blame for the financial crisis, which will not help her negotiating position. If she does nothing, the agricultural policy will take the blame for the crisis, which will strengthen her negotiating position.

But that is to ignore the June direct elections to the European Parliament. If there is no settlement by then, and Britain is still paying its full contribution, the Labour Party can be sure to capitalize on it, and could pick up many more seats in the European Parliament than Mrs Thatcher would like.

So Mrs Thatcher can be expected to go flat out for real progress by the time the March summit takes place in Brussels. If enough can be done by then to persuade the Parliament to unfreeze the British rebate, she could believe herself to be home and dry. If the money remains in the freezer she will face a difficult dilemma.

Concluded.

Mitterrand profile, page 8

Mitterrand profile, page 8

Charge may wreck Singapore party

From David Watts, Singapore

Opposition politics in Singapore took another lurch towards oblivion yesterday when two key officials of the Workers' Party appeared in court.

The party's only MP, Mr J. B. "Ben" Jayaraman, and the Secretary-General, Mr Wong Hong Toy, were charged with making false statements in connection with party accounts.

According to the assistant Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Glenn Knight, cheques to the value of 2,600 Singapore dollars (about £580) were not recorded in the accounts when they were examined by the Official Receiver last year.

It was an exchange on elections which prompted the latest battle between Mr Jayaraman and Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister, in Parliament just before Christmas. Mr Jayaraman asked why the opposition party should not be represented on a committee which will redraw constituency boundaries.

Mr Lee, calling Mr Jayaraman a continuous purveyor of untruth, said the House extended him the sense of importance he himself felt he deserved. "But if he wants us to take him seriously as a person who represents the opposition, then the alternative government, then he must comport himself as such.



Mr Mortimer: Rumpole's creator defends a friend.

Gandhi move to left isolates opposition

From Michael Hamlyn, Calcutta

Mrs Gandhi's Congress (I) Party took a smart step or two to the left yesterday in an effort to outflank and isolate the opposition parties. The shift may, however, be only one of language, since the actions of Mrs Gandhi's Government have tended to be pragmatic rather than theoretically based.

The influence of the Leftist parties is extremely limited," the Finance Minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, told me. "It has influence only in the two states of Bengal and in Kerala, and in any case Congress is a left of centre party."

The Minister, a Bengali himself and one of the organizers of the conference, added: "The real challenge is not from the left in any case."

The so-called rightist parties were also strongly castigated for their communal, casteist and separatist tendencies. The resolutions introduced to the 77th plenary session of the Indian National Congress were aimed at the denunciation of the rightist tendencies of the opposition. In particular, they attacked the National Democratic Alliance combination of Lok Dal and Bharatiya Janata Party, which was called "totally reactionary in its social and political outlook".

Three resolutions were put forward yesterday, on politics, economics and international affairs. The political resolution emphasized the historical background to Congress's socialism, and urged a continuation along

THE ARTS

Irving Wardle finds grounds for hope in London's theatrical year

A bright side to the balance sheet

My friend Trixie was in London over the autumn, on the trip from Romania she gets every three years. She is a translator. It is her boast that her version of *The Rainmaker* was the first Western piece to reach the East European stage after the war. She also prepared a white-face adaptation of *Siva Bansi is Dead* for production in a Romanian oil town where it evidently made as much sense as in its native Port Elizabeth. At home in Bucharest she keeps up with the latest British plays, but texts are no substitute for the real thing, and each time she returns to the London theatre it is as if the clock had stopped since her last visit ran out.

She set off enthusiastically on her round of the subsidized houses, the West End and the outlying repertoires; and, at the end of it all, she summed up her dejected impressions in one word: "sick".

That is a small word to cover a mass of work. On the other hand, if you have spent a year in a deteriorating climate, it may take an outsider to point out that the weather used to be better. Also, there is much to be said in favour of sickness. For a start, it means that things are booming. Nobody is going to get sick unless he has a market to feed. And, so far as the theatre is concerned, it is a guarantee that the artist is in contact with the public.

Better a sick professional product than a laboriously hand-crafted ego-trip. And, without the steady, hundrum process of business as usual, there would be no setting for anything extraordinary to happen.

Looking back on 1983, my chief sense is one of relief. For the first time since the mid-Seventies there has been no immediate sense of approaching catastrophe. In London, some managements have come to the end of the road. The Mermaid, the Shaw and the Roundhouse are no longer in the same hands; but arguably they were due for a change of direction anyway. The RSC is sending up distress signals from the Barbican; but at least its plight is officially recognized, and its financial administration approved. Warning noises have been heard from the Arts Council, but so far there has been no major blood-letting, and corporate sponsorship continues to spread its safety net. Even the West End has

survived its VAT scalping and bounced back into life.

Shabby and antiquated as some commercial houses may be, at least they are all back in business; and the London Transport poster of a glittering, packed-out theatre street, which seemed such a sick joke last Christmas, now roughly corresponds to what you see in St Martin's Lane.

Halfway through Dennis Potter's recent play, *Sufficient Carbohydrate*, a character quotes a chunk of Keats and then says that he prefers a good balance sheet. He could be speaking for the profession. After its precarious existence of the past decade, the theatre has understandably given top priority to its own survival. The demoralized old routine of eccentric hits and flops, stage-bound casting, rude box-office staff and complaints against punitive taxation, is giving way to the new world of go-ahead marketing, computerized ticket and stand-by sales and packaged products each with its built-in television star.

If there is any single pointer towards the future, it is Ed Mervish's Old Vic restored to full Victorian glamour while also running its Credit Card Hotline and subscription bargains along the lines of the discount store on which Mr Mervish based his.

Tonight, ingrained British snobbery has been proved wrong often enough in this department (witness the career of Roy Thomson) for us to have learnt to greet this kind of enterprise with more than a lordly sneer. Why should theatre not be sold like meat or Mediterranean holidays? As much damage has been done to it in the name of "art" and "culture" as has ever been done by the puritans.

It is only when you look at Mr Mervish's advance programme – a *Mikado* imported from Stratford, Ontario, revivals of *Sergeant Musgrave's Dance* and *The Boy Friend* – that the welcome freeze on the lips. It is not that these are likely to be bad shows (*The Mikado*, when I saw it two years ago, was a knockout); but that they are there on the basis of their proved reputation and market value. Would Tim Rice's *Blondel* now be boring the pants off the musical public were it not for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Evita*?

Having raised the spectre of a theatrical hypermarket, I must acknowledge a few alternative initiat-



Roger Heathcott and Alexandra Mathie (right) in *Daisy Pulls It Off*, triumphantly transferred from Southampton to the Globe; and the impassioned authority of John Kani in *Master Harold and the Boys* down in the bowels of the National Theatre

ives. For a start, there is Mr Mervish's Old Vic rival, Andrew Lloyd-Webber, who embarked on management with *Daisy Pulls It Off*, a piece by an unknown writer.

triumphantly transferred to the Globe with only one change in its original Southampton company. There is the Theatre of Comedy, a consortium of leading comic actors,

now controlling the Shaftesbury and the Ambassadors, and planning to embrace the whole comic repertory from Shaw and basic British farce to new plays and off-Broadway imports. Also there is the Plowright-Anderson faction, a self-appointed National Theatre-in-Exile, which periodically re-ignites the classical torch in productions like the Haymarket *Cherry Orchard*.

As yet, none of these groups has got properly into its stride; but the signs so far suggest that they may develop into new power centres offering an alternative to the Mervish operation and setting the pace for commercial innovation.

No such signs of fresh initiative

have appeared in the subsidized sector, and it is here if anywhere that sickness has taken over. The RSC and the National Theatre have traversed the past 12 months like comfortably appointed Jumbos flying on automatic pilot. Their course is set, their public is loyal; and it seems that those in charge are tired of navigating the same old routes. The Stratford season (represented at its best by John Caird's melancholy *Twelfth Night*) was mainly the work of junior directors, with John Barton arriving at the last minute with a studio version of Calderon's *Life is a Dream*. Likewise, at the National

Theatre, classic after routine classic was fired off by the boundlessly energetic Michael Bogdanov while Sir Peter Hall, like Trevor Nunn and Terry Hands, was looking round for new worlds to conquer.

Much to their credit, both the RSC and the National have resisted the temptation to bury new work in low-budget studio productions; and gave elaborate main-house showings to a

wrights. But – with the exception of David Edgar's *Mavdays* (I missed Ron Daniels's Barbican production, but found the text deeply impressive) – David Hare's *A Map of the World*, Christopher Hampton's *Tales from Hollywood* and (at the Royal Court) Howard Brenton's *Genius* all emerged as dutiful essays on important themes, rather than urgent works with the power to touch a hundred people at the Bush.

With more managerial flair in the West End, and a vacuum of absenteeism leaving the subsidized sector open to change, 1984 is likely to bring more surprises than we have seen this year. We can also expect to see developments in the feminist ghetto, and in the reinvigorated black theatre, backed by Equity's campaign for integrated casting and by its own pioneer West End season. But, for the time being, the shows I would choose to defend London as a great theatrical capital are those that I cited to my Romanian friend: Phil Young's *Crystal Cleat* and Giles Havergal's production of *Men Should Weep*, both held over from 1982.

platform for good new work, for there is evidently no other home. If we are speaking of "public plays", it would be hard to outdistance any with greater bite and pertinence than Jonathan Falla's *Topakana Martyr's Day* and Brian Thompson's *Turning Over*; and it is a sad waste that they should vanish after playing to a few hundred people at the Bush.

Studio productions are another matter; and it has been a continual shock throughout the year to exchange the razzle-dazzle of *Cyrano de Bergerac* or *Jean Seberg* in the main house for impassioned authenticity of work like Athol Fugard's *Master Harold and the Boys* or Nicholas Wright's *The Custom of the Country* down in the bowels of the same building. Apart from the fact that such productions have yielded some of the year's most dazzling acting – Antony Sher's Tartuffe, Tony Haygarth's tongue-tied croupier in *Glenary Glen Ross* – the big-house studios link up with the fringe as a

platform for good new work, for there is evidently no other home. If we are speaking of "public plays", it would be hard to outdistance any with greater bite and pertinence than Jonathan Falla's *Topakana Martyr's Day* and Brian Thompson's *Turning Over*; and it is a sad waste that they should vanish after playing to a few hundred people at the Bush.

With more managerial flair in the West End, and a vacuum of absenteeism leaving the subsidized sector open to change, 1984 is likely to bring more surprises than we have seen this year. We can also expect to see developments in the feminist ghetto, and in the reinvigorated black theatre, backed by Equity's campaign for integrated casting and by its own pioneer West End season. But, for the time being, the shows I would choose to defend London as a great theatrical capital are those that I cited to my Romanian friend: Phil Young's *Crystal Cleat* and Giles Havergal's production of *Men Should Weep*, both held over from 1982.

platform for good new work, for there is evidently no other home. If we are speaking of "public plays", it would be hard to outdistance any with greater bite and pertinence than Jonathan Falla's *Topakana Martyr's Day* and Brian Thompson's *Turning Over*; and it is a sad waste that they should vanish after playing to a few hundred people at the Bush.

Studio productions are another matter; and it has been a continual shock throughout the year to exchange the razzle-dazzle of *Cyrano de Bergerac* or *Jean Seberg* in the main house for impassioned authenticity of work like Athol Fugard's *Master Harold and the Boys* or Nicholas Wright's *The Custom of the Country* down in the bowels of the same building. Apart from the fact that such productions have yielded some of the year's most dazzling acting – Antony Sher's Tartuffe, Tony Haygarth's tongue-tied croupier in *Glenary Glen Ross* – the big-house studios link up with the fringe as a

platform for good new work, for there is evidently no other home. If we are speaking of "public plays", it would be hard to outdistance any with greater bite and pertinence than Jonathan Falla's *Topakana Martyr's Day* and Brian Thompson's *Turning Over*; and it is a sad waste that they should vanish after playing to a few hundred people at the Bush.

With more managerial flair in the West End, and a vacuum of absenteeism leaving the subsidized sector open to change, 1984 is likely to bring more surprises than we have seen this year. We can also expect to see developments in the feminist ghetto, and in the reinvigorated black theatre, backed by Equity's campaign for integrated casting and by its own pioneer West End season. But, for the time being, the shows I would choose to defend London as a great theatrical capital are those that I cited to my Romanian friend: Phil Young's *Crystal Cleat* and Giles Havergal's production of *Men Should Weep*, both held over from 1982.

platform for good new work, for there is evidently no other home. If we are speaking of "public plays", it would be hard to outdistance any with greater bite and pertinence than Jonathan Falla's *Topakana Martyr's Day* and Brian Thompson's *Turning Over*; and it is a sad waste that they should vanish after playing to a few hundred people at the Bush.

With more managerial flair in the West End, and a vacuum of absenteeism leaving the subsidized sector open to change, 1984 is likely to bring more surprises than we have seen this year. We can also expect to see developments in the feminist ghetto, and in the reinvigorated black theatre, backed by Equity's campaign for integrated casting and by its own pioneer West End season. But, for the time being, the shows I would choose to defend London as a great theatrical capital are those that I cited to my Romanian friend: Phil Young's *Crystal Cleat* and Giles Havergal's production of *Men Should Weep*, both held over from 1982.

platform for good new work, for there is evidently no other home. If we are speaking of "public plays", it would be hard to outdistance any with greater bite and pertinence than Jonathan Falla's *Topakana Martyr's Day* and Brian Thompson's *Turning Over*; and it is a sad waste that they should vanish after playing to a few hundred people at the Bush.

With more managerial flair in the West End, and a vacuum of absenteeism leaving the subsidized sector open to change, 1984 is likely to bring more surprises than we have seen this year. We can also expect to see developments in the feminist ghetto, and in the reinvigorated black theatre, backed by Equity's campaign for integrated casting and by its own pioneer West End season. But, for the time being, the shows I would choose to defend London as a great theatrical capital are those that I cited to my Romanian friend: Phil Young's *Crystal Cleat* and Giles Havergal's production of *Men Should Weep*, both held over from 1982.

platform for good new work, for there is evidently no other home. If we are speaking of "public plays", it would be hard to outdistance any with greater bite and pertinence than Jonathan Falla's *Topakana Martyr's Day* and Brian Thompson's *Turning Over*; and it is a sad waste that they should vanish after playing to a few hundred people at the Bush.

With more managerial flair in the West End, and a vacuum of absenteeism leaving the subsidized sector open to change, 1984 is likely to bring more surprises than we have seen this year. We can also expect to see developments in the feminist ghetto, and in the reinvigorated black theatre, backed by Equity's campaign for integrated casting and by its own pioneer West End season. But, for the time being, the shows I would choose to defend London as a great theatrical capital are those that I cited to my Romanian friend: Phil Young's *Crystal Cleat* and Giles Havergal's production of *Men Should Weep*, both held over from 1982.

platform for good new work, for there is evidently no other home. If we are speaking of "public plays", it would be hard to outdistance any with greater bite and pertinence than Jonathan Falla's *Topakana Martyr's Day* and Brian Thompson's *Turning Over*; and it is a sad waste that they should vanish after playing to a few hundred people at the Bush.

With more managerial flair in the West End, and a vacuum of absenteeism leaving the subsidized sector open to change, 1984 is likely to bring more surprises than we have seen this year. We can also expect to see developments in the feminist ghetto, and in the reinvigorated black theatre, backed by Equity's campaign for integrated casting and by its own pioneer West End season. But, for the time being, the shows I would choose to defend London as a great theatrical capital are those that I cited to my Romanian friend: Phil Young's *Crystal Cleat* and Giles Havergal's production of *Men Should Weep*, both held over from 1982.

platform for good new work, for there is evidently no other home. If we are speaking of "public plays", it would be hard to outdistance any with greater bite and pertinence than Jonathan Falla's *Topakana Martyr's Day* and Brian Thompson's *Turning Over*; and it is a sad waste that they should vanish after playing to a few hundred people at the Bush.

With more managerial flair in the West End, and a vacuum of absenteeism leaving the subsidized sector open to change, 1984 is likely to bring more surprises than we have seen this year. We can also expect to see developments in the feminist ghetto, and in the reinvigorated black theatre, backed by Equity's campaign for integrated casting and by its own pioneer West End season. But, for the time being, the shows I would choose to defend London as a great theatrical capital are those that I cited to my Romanian friend: Phil Young's *Crystal Cleat* and Giles Havergal's production of *Men Should Weep*, both held over from 1982.

platform for good new work, for there is evidently no other home. If we are speaking of "public plays", it would be hard to outdistance any with greater bite and pertinence than Jonathan Falla's *Topakana Martyr's Day* and Brian Thompson's *Turning Over*; and it is a sad waste that they should vanish after playing to a few hundred people at the Bush.

With more managerial flair in the West End, and a vacuum of absenteeism leaving the subsidized sector open to change, 1984 is likely to bring more surprises than we have seen this year. We can also expect to see developments in the feminist ghetto, and in the reinvigorated black theatre, backed by Equity's campaign for integrated casting and by its own pioneer West End season. But, for the time being, the shows I would choose to defend London as a great theatrical capital are those that I cited to my Romanian friend: Phil Young's *Crystal Cleat* and Giles Havergal's production of *Men Should Weep*, both held over from 1982.

platform for good new work, for there is evidently no other home. If we are speaking of "public plays", it would be hard to outdistance any with greater bite and pertinence than Jonathan Falla's *Topakana Martyr's Day* and Brian Thompson's *Turning Over*; and it is a sad waste that they should vanish after playing to a few hundred people at the Bush.

With more managerial flair in the West End, and a vacuum of absenteeism leaving the subsidized sector open to change, 1984 is likely to bring more surprises than we have seen this year. We can also expect to see developments in the feminist ghetto, and in the reinvigorated black theatre, backed by Equity's campaign for integrated casting and by its own pioneer West End season. But, for the time being, the shows I would choose to defend London as a great theatrical capital are those that I cited to my Romanian friend: Phil Young's *Crystal Cleat* and Giles Havergal's production of *Men Should Weep*, both held over from 1982.

platform for good new work, for there is evidently no other home. If we are speaking of "public plays", it would be hard to outdistance any with greater bite and pertinence than Jonathan Falla's *Topakana Martyr's Day* and Brian Thompson's *Turning Over*; and it is a sad waste that they should vanish after playing to a few hundred people at the Bush.

With more managerial flair in the West End, and a vacuum of absenteeism leaving the subsidized sector open to change, 1984 is likely to bring more surprises than we have seen this year. We can also expect to see developments in the feminist ghetto, and in the reinvigorated black theatre, backed by Equity's campaign for integrated casting and by its own pioneer West End season. But, for the time being, the shows I would choose to defend London as a great theatrical capital are those that I cited to my Romanian friend: Phil Young's *Crystal Cleat* and Giles Havergal's production of *Men Should Weep*, both held over from 1982.

platform for good new work, for there is evidently no other home. If we are speaking of "public plays", it would be hard to outdistance any with greater bite and pertinence than Jonathan Falla's *Topakana Martyr's Day* and Brian Thompson's *Turning Over*; and it is a sad waste that they should vanish after playing to a few hundred people at the Bush.

With more managerial flair in the West End, and a vacuum of absenteeism leaving the subsidized sector open to change, 1984 is likely to bring more surprises than we have seen this year. We can also expect to see developments in the feminist ghetto, and in the reinvigorated black theatre, backed by Equity's campaign for integrated casting and by its own pioneer West End season. But, for the time being, the shows I would choose to defend London as a great theatrical capital are those that I cited to my Romanian friend: Phil Young's *Crystal Cleat* and Giles Havergal's production of *Men Should Weep*, both held over from 1982.

platform for good new work, for there is evidently no other home. If we are speaking of "public plays", it would be hard to outdistance any with greater bite and pertinence than Jonathan Falla's *Topakana Martyr's Day* and Brian Thompson's *Turning Over*; and it is a sad waste that they should vanish after playing to a few hundred people at the Bush.

With more managerial flair in the West End, and a vacuum of absenteeism leaving the subsidized sector open to change, 1984 is likely to bring more surprises than we have seen this year. We can also expect to see developments in the feminist ghetto, and in the reinvigorated black theatre, backed by Equity's campaign for integrated casting and by its own pioneer West End season. But, for the time being, the shows I would choose to defend London as a great theatrical capital are those that I cited to my Romanian friend: Phil Young's *Crystal Cleat* and Giles Havergal's production of *Men Should Weep*, both held over from 1982.

platform for good new work, for there is evidently no other home. If we are speaking of "public plays", it would be hard to outdistance any with greater bite and pertinence than Jonathan Falla's *Topakana Martyr's Day* and Brian Thompson's *Turning Over*; and it is a sad waste that they should vanish after playing to a few hundred people at the Bush.

With more managerial flair in the West End, and a vacuum of absenteeism leaving the subsidized sector open to change, 1984 is likely to bring more surprises than we have seen this year. We can also expect to see developments in the feminist ghetto, and in the reinvigorated black theatre, backed by Equity's campaign for integrated casting and by its own pioneer West End season. But, for the time being, the shows I would choose to defend London as a great theatrical capital are those that I cited to my Romanian friend: Phil Young's *Crystal Cleat* and Giles Havergal's production of *Men Should Weep*, both held over from 1982.

platform for good new work, for there is evidently no other home. If we are speaking of "public plays", it would be hard to outdistance any with greater bite and pertinence than Jonathan Falla's *Topakana Martyr's Day* and Brian Thompson's *Turning Over*; and it is a sad waste that they should vanish after playing to a few hundred people at the Bush.

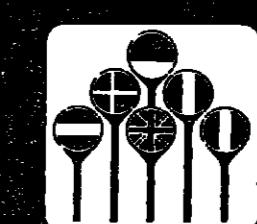
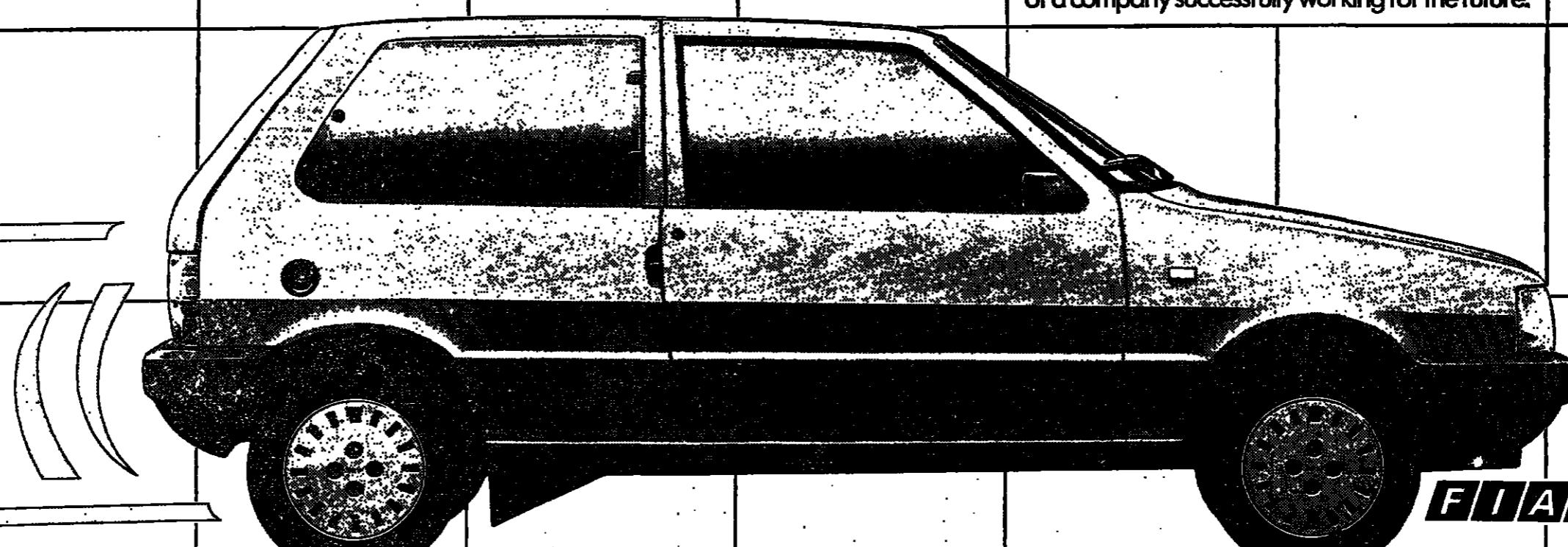
With more managerial flair in the West End, and a vacuum of absenteeism leaving the subsidized sector open to change, 1984 is likely to bring more surprises than we have seen this year. We can also expect to see developments in the feminist ghetto, and in the reinvigorated black theatre, backed by Equity's campaign for integrated casting and by its own pioneer West End season. But, for the time being, the shows I would choose to defend London as a great theatrical capital are those that I cited to my Romanian friend: Phil Young's *Crystal Cleat* and Giles Havergal's production of *Men Should Weep*, both held over from 1982.

platform for good new work, for there is evidently no other home. If we are speaking of "public plays", it would be hard to outdistance any with greater bite and pertinence than Jonathan Falla's *Topakana Martyr's Day* and Brian Thompson's *Turning Over*; and it is a sad waste that they should vanish after playing to a few hundred people at the Bush.

MANY TOOK PART. UNO TOOK FIRST.

This is not a normal advertisement in which a car manufacturer boasts about his products. A jury of 53 motoring journalists from 16 European countries, including 7 journalists from Britain, have just elected the Fiat Uno "Car of the Year 1984". The criteria on which the jury based its decision were: quality of design, comfort, safety, handling and road-holding, performance, practicality and sheer driving pleasure.

Uno with its unique combination of merits surpassed all of the fourteen other new cars launched in Europe during 1983. The Car of the Year award is Europe's highest accolade; an important achievement for Uno and for Fiat, and recognition for the commitment of a company successfully working for the future.



**FIAT
CAR OF THE YEAR 1984.**

SPECTRUM

By the left, slow march

The Times profile
François Mitterrand

When François Mitterrand was elected President of France on May 10, 1981 he stood at a rare pinnacle of achievement. He had brought to its culmination a political career which began in 1945 when he was the youngest of de Gaulle's ministers. He had also changed the whole political landscape of France. He had rebuilt the Socialist party from ruins (it took only 6 per cent of the vote in 1969) to become by far the largest party in France, with complete state power within its grasp. For the first six months of 1984 the state that he heads assumes the presidency of the EEC.

The scale of his achievement is still the dominating fact of Mitterrand's presidency. He grasped earlier than anyone else the way in which the directly elected presidency would produce a powerful coat-tail effect for those who ran well in it.

He also grasped that the key to a good socialist showing was an alliance with the (then far stronger) French communists. He stuck to this strategy, first put into effect in 1965, through thick and thin, despite the firm conventional wisdom that it could lead only to defeat. Instead Mitterrand first polarized French politics around the left alliance; then pulled enough centrist voters towards the socialists to allow them to overtake the communists before humbling them. The way in which Mitterrand simply out-thought his opponents and was willing to work his way through 16 years in the wilderness to win, brought forth from the right the admiring recognition of his almost Gaulian stature.

This long march towards power also had marked effects on Mitterrand's political personality. The French expect a certain gravitas of those who would be president, a dignity and hauteur. Mitterrand took to this like a duck to water, for he is a naturally reserved man. He has few really close personal confidants and spends more of his time thinking and writing than he does talking – indeed, he hopes to be chiefly remembered as a writer.

There were other reasons for this reserve, too. As the socialists overtook the communists the latter railed furiously and often personally against Mitterrand. He was only too aware that they were looking for excuses to break off the left alliance and was determined not to offer them any. So, time and again, he just turned the other cheek and found great use for the ambivalent silence and the delphic utterance. Finally, the government-controlled radio and television, and much of the press, were outrageously partisan in their attempts to discredit him. A firm insistence on privacy was often his best defence. Even so, to maintain a cool and level head while standing up to such a barrage required an elephantine stamina and patience.

One result was that, even after his 16-year campaign, many Frenchmen were surprisingly unsure what sort of man they had elected. The new presidential style was underpinned by a wish to restate the old republican virtues, and to insist on the self-confident legitimacy of the new regime. Moreover, Mitterrand immediately made public a doctor's report on his own health and a full statement of his



personal finances: the new president would be seen to be subject to the law. At the same time he briskly waved aside the national cult which had insisted that de Gaulle's old office in the Elysée should be preserved as a sort of national shrine; on his first day Mitterrand moved into this holy of holies and has worked in it since. He refused though to live in the regal splendour of the Elysée, preferring to commute to work from his small Paris flat. But he remained an austere figure, and he dominated his government utterly. (When ministers visit him at his country retreat in Nièvre they have, perchance, to fall into crocodile file behind Mitterrand on the long country walks that he, as an almost rhapsodic nature lover, is much given to.)

His greatest weakness was relative ignorance of economics. In particular, he failed to realize just how tightly the French economy is constrained within the EEC and the European Monetary System.

In the 1970s attempts at economic expansion had to be cut short as each time they produced a flood of German imports, a plunging trade balance, recurrent devaluations of the franc against the deutschmark. And Giscard's decision to join the EMS meant the franc could no longer float down and EMS consent was required for any devaluation at all. Worse still, in spite of its eight separate devaluations since 1960, the franc was by 1981 more overvalued than ever.

Mitterrand ought to have devalued steeply and at once – and perhaps quit the EMS – whatever else he was going to do. If, in addition, France was going to try an expansionist spurt, that devaluation would have to be all the steeper and would probably need to be accompanied either by protectionist measures or by cutting internal consumption.

It is doubtful if Mitterrand grasped how stark his choices were in 1981. At all events, such considerations were brushed aside. The franc was defended at its old value. By October 1981 sweeping nationalization had produced a forced devaluation of 8.8 per cent against the deutschmark – universally agreed to be insufficient.

Unabashed, Mitterrand pressed ahead with an avalanche of legislation: abolition of the death penalty, university reform, the extension of industrial democracy, leaseshold reform, reform even of the monumental Code Napoleon, and, not least, abolition of military tribunals. Public opinion was staggered at the sheer size and ambition of what was to be attempted. Not a few had quietly assumed that Mitterrand was too much the old fox to do literally what he had promised. If precisely for that reason Mitterrand was determined to show that he was a man of his word.

This programme ran into trouble from a number of directions. The Constitutional Council (packed with old right-wing politicians) declared several measures unconstitutional and even found the (by no means ungenerous) nationalization terms not generous enough. Despite the left's fury, Mitterrand largely increased the terms of his programme. This programme ran into trouble from a number of directions. The Constitutional Council (packed with old right-wing politicians) declared several measures unconstitutional and even found the (by no means ungenerous) nationalization terms not generous enough. Despite the left's fury, Mitterrand largely increased the terms of his programme.

In July 1983 Mitterrand was overthrown in a perhaps over-frank interview where he declared that he "made a mistake in not devaluing in May 1981. You tell me Blum made the same mistake as me (during the 1930s Popular Front), but for him it was more excusable. Only Jober (a Gaullist maverick) encouraged me in that direction. Confusedly, I felt he was right, but

Mauroy and Delors persuaded me against it and Rocard said nothing. From spring 1982 on I wanted policies of rigour... Everybody foretold a return to growth in 1983 and to be honest I lacked the expertise to say they were wrong... It's true, we dreamt a little in 1981 and underestimated the length of the international crisis, just as I overestimated the goodwill of the Americans. I no longer expect anything of Reagan."

Mitterrand has never been one to be so frank by accident. Clearly he had been reassessing the left's record in somewhat better mood. He was not pleased by the way in which he, with his reputation for long-term strategic thinking, had ended up with hand-to-mouth policies. Moreover he was boxed in. He had tried to shelter behind Mauroy, letting him take the brunt of unpopularity.

Not only had this not worked, but the communists, who get on well with Mauroy, were insisting that no other premier would be acceptable to them. Delors, the great talisman of business confidence, and Rocard, the most popular man in the government, were regarded as unsackable. Mitterrand wanted more room for manoeuvre. It was no accident that his interview roundly criticized all three of these "indispensable" men. Or that the only minister singled out for praise, Jober, had left the government some time before. The time had come, Mitterrand was signalling, for a powerful and Gaullist reassertion of presidential authority.

This is indeed what we have seen, with a strikingly Gaullist series of foreign policy initiatives in Chad, Lebanon and the EEC.

All these initiatives show an almost regal assertion of presidential power.

The right has found itself wrong-footed and the president's popularity has recovered strongly in the polls. Clearly, Mitterrand has decided that he, and he alone, can now save the left.

Mitterrand still has two trumps. First, the right is split and it looks as though it will be forced, *faute de mieux*, to rally behind Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader. Chirac is so widely distrusted and feared that many centrist Frenchmen may find it hard to choose him, however much they dislike Mitterrand.

Secondly, Mitterrand has time. There is a socialist majority in parliament until June 1986 and he remains president until May 1988. He has now enacted almost the whole of his programme so there is little left for parliament to do.

Everything now depends on Mitterrand and himself. More than ever he is the heart of the entire experiment. At times in the past two years he has shown flashes of the old Fourth Republic's wheeler-dealer that many think he still is: a fatal trait. What the government needs now more than anything is that he provide a firm, tough, still centre, that he show all the patience and calmness under fire that he displayed in his 16-year march towards power. It is a tall order of an old man; and even that may not be enough. But the French have already seen in de Gaulle – that it is a great mistake to underestimate the determination, stamina and strategic subtlety of a leader. The game is far from over.

R W Johnson

The author, a Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, published *The Long March of the French Left* in 1981.

moreover...
Miles Kington

Thanks for the memory

There must be millions of my younger readers who have received word processors in their stockings for Christmas and now haven't the faintest idea what to do with them, except, perhaps, start a free giveaway comic in Stockport. The right answer is, of course, to mass produce your thank-you letters now.

As an incentive I have devised five all-purpose thank you letters which you can simply feed into your word processor and then produce as many copies as you like.

Dear Granny,

Thank you for the super book token. I was super. I went to the bookshop to get a super book with it, but the bookshop was still closed for Christmas. So I swapped my book token with John for the toy guitar you gave him, which he did not want. I did not want it either, but I knew Simon wanted one. So I sold it to him for three pounds. Which I used to buy an ambulance and two stretchers off Rosemary, plus two blood-stained bandages, so you can see it was a super book token.

Dear Uncle Charlie,

Thanks for the super calculator. This is one of the great new ones that you can plug into telephones and things, so that you can monitor all incoming and outgoing calls to prevent them being too expensive, etc. Dad said jokingly, "Any chance you can plug into my bank and get my overdraft wiped out?" Well, it took a bit of working out but eventually I discovered that I could work this all right and Dad now has no overdraft in the bank. What he also now has, thanks to your calculator, is £3 million in the bank.

Your loving nephew

Dear Auntie,

Thanks for the diary. It was just what I wanted. Mummy gave it me a diary too, so did John and Uncle Charlie and someone whose name I couldn't read and somebody else whose label fell off before Christmas. I am now thinking of becoming a diary collector. All the diaries are different. At least the outside is different with titles like Schoolgirls' Diary, Stamp Collectors' Diary, Train Spotters' Diary, and Princess Di's Diary, but all the insides are the same. Isn't that interesting?

Love,

Dear Uncle Ned,

How are things in New Zealand? Great to hear from you. We had a lovely Christmas. Nobody was sick very much. Mum and Dad had a big fight on Boxing Day but it was hard to tell who won. Uncle Percy was here on Christmas Day and got drunk. He woke up during the Queen's broadcast and said loudly, "I know that woman! Must be an old girlfriend of mine!" And went to sleep again, also loudly. Cousin Kathleen came all the way from London and we all gave her gloves again. PS Thanks for your present. What is it? Some of us say it is for strangling sheep with in New Zealand.

Love,

Dear Uncle Tom,

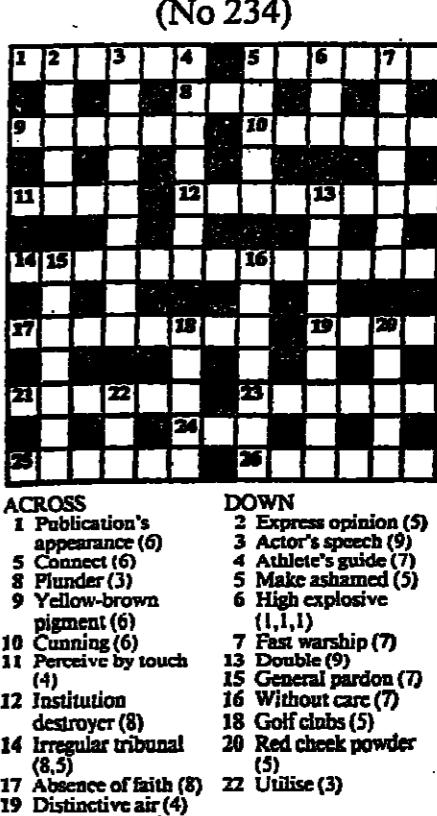
You remember last year you gave me a machine gun which was very noisy? And dad got so cross that he broke it on Boxing Day? And you weren't very sympathetic? But you said I should have had it insured? And I didn't know what insurance was? So you had to explain it to me?

Well, this year I took out insurance on all my Christmas presents in advance for a premium of £5. From one of those fast-talking insurance brokers who persuaded me to take out fire, theft, etc, while I was at it. For a two-week period for only an extra £10. Anyway to cut a long story short, the candles on the Christmas tree burnt the tree yesterday and the tree burnt the house down and I had the house insured so I am now richer by £80,000 odd. Unfortunately, Dad did not have the house insured.

PS: I am sorry you didn't send me a present this year. Luckily I insured against this.

Love,

Tomorrow: How to mass-produce postage stamps with your new printing set.

CONCISE CROSSWORD
(No 234)

ACROSS
1 Publication's appearance (6)
2 Actor's speech (9)
3 Connect (6)
4 Athlete's guide (7)
5 Plunder (3)
9 Yellow-brown pigment (6)
10 Fast warship (7)
11 Perceive by touch (4)
12 Institution
13 General pardon (7)
14 Destroyer (8)
15 Regular tribunal (8)
16 Absence of faith (8)
17 Distinctive air (4)
21 Not genuine (6)
22 Hairy (6)
23 Consent sister (3)
24 Foreign secondary schools (6)
26 Derv (6)

DOWN
2 Express opinion (5)
3 Actor's speech (9)
4 Athlete's guide (7)
5 Make ashamed (5)
6 High explosive (1,1,1)
7 Fast warship (7)
12 Gentle (9)
15 General pardon (7)
16 Without care (7)
18 Golf clubs (5)
20 Red check powder (5)
21 Absent (8)
22 Utilise (3)

SOLUTION TO No 233

ACROSS
1 Diction 12 Fly 15 Editor

3 Landlady 17 Puff 19 Sabotage 24 Encloses

5 Sinner 26 Clean 27 Source

DOWN
1 Due 2 Companion 3 Modem

4 Focus 5 Lump 6 Nut 10 Dross 11 Sweat

12 Freight 13 Yard 14 Serf 18 Annual 20 Asset

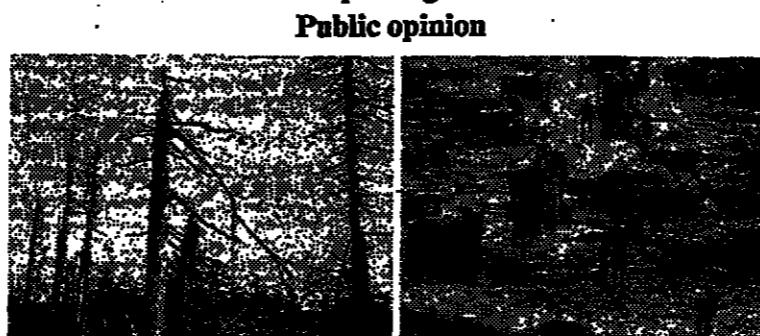
21 Oasis 22 Alas 23 Twee

Rising with
a new leader

Twice recently, leading political journalists have discounted the rise in the polls for the Labour Party since the "unity" conference early in October, in one instance saying "the Party has not risen nearly as much as might have been expected in the opinion polls after the election of a young and amiable new leader". In fact, there has been a remarkable and very sharp rise which occurred almost precisely on the occasion of Mr Kinnock's election to the Labour leadership. In the June election, the Conservatives received 44 per cent of the vote, Labour 28 per cent and the Alliance 26 per cent. In nine public opinion polls taken between then and the end of September by Gallup, MORI, Marplan and NOP, the support averaged as follows: 44.5 per cent supported the Conservatives, 27.8 per cent Labour and 26.3 per cent the Alliance. The opinion polls

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research
Public opinion



Fatal fallout: the real effect of acid rain and smog, the Hollywood vision of The Day After the bomb has fallen

than 3,000 women or one-seventeen of one per cent of women over 16. Mr Waugh surely knows that he need take but a slip to see that the wine is sour, whether it comes from a bottle, a magnum or a jeroboam. Many people, including Mr Waugh, confuse the size of a sample with the percentage sampled. So long as a sample is large enough to be statistically reliable (say, 1,000 adults), the statistical reliability is the same (plus or minus 3 per cent) no matter if that sample is drawn from among 40 million British adults, 3 million adults in Ireland or 160 million adults in America.

We live in a democratic society – or do we? You would think that MPs would be responsive to public opinion, at least on matters of communication if not in terms of substantive matters such as the local government. Yet Austin Mitchell seems to be making little progress in getting the Commons to agree to the televising of Parliament even in a limited and carefully controlled way. A recent MORI poll for the *Sunday Times* shows that by more than two-to-one public opinion is in favour of seeing

Kansas canvass

Eighty per cent of the British public believes that ITV was right to show the film *The Day After* on television and only 9 per cent felt it was "not right". It was interesting to see that, among those who watched the film only 6 per cent felt that ITV were wrong to show the film while twice as many, 12 per cent of those who didn't watch it took this view. Nearly 21 per cent of those who said it thought it was not nearly as bad as reality would be following a nuclear attack. Sixty-one per cent thought the morale of people after an attack would be worse, 60 per cent thought that suffering would be worse, 68 per cent thought that health and welfare would be worse and 63 per cent thought that public order would be worse than that portrayed in the film, according to MORI research for the IBA and ITN.

Big Brother watch

Orwell's 1984 is upon us and Oceania has moved to America. According to a recent Louis Harris and Associates poll, Americans, 27 per cent of whom have read George Orwell's 1984, are increasingly concerned about threats to privacy. One third (31 per cent) of those polled said they were "very concerned". In 1978, this has risen to nearly half (48 per cent) in 1983. One-third mistrust the Internal Revenue Service and nearly four in 10 mistrust the FBI. An overwhelming 86 per cent of the American public thought it was possible that "a government in Washington will use confidential information to intimidate individuals or groups it feels are its enemies" and 70 per cent said it was "likely". However nearly a quarter of congressmen interviewed, one-third of the Senate executives and more than half (56 per cent) of the editors interviewed thought it was "unlikely".

Ecological concern

The author is chairman of MORI. Details of fieldwork, dates and sample sizes are reported in British Public Opinion Newsletter, published by the firm.

Robert Worcester

A very
Concise Offer

If you take out a year's subscription to The Times Higher Educational Supplement, in addition to your 52 issues of the THES you will receive a copy of the international best selling Times Concise Atlas of World History (worth £12.50) absolutely free. This beautifully produced book containing over 300 dynamic maps has been described as "The best single volume of universal history available".

Simply complete the coupon below and send it together with your cheque/P.O. for £25.00 (made payable to Times Newspapers Ltd) to the address shown:

Please note: offer applies to new subscribers in the U.K. only.

Please send me a year's subscription to the Times Higher Educational Supplement and my free copy of the Times Concise Atlas of World History.

I enclose my cheque for £25.00 (made payable to Times Newspapers Ltd)

Please send to:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

SIGNATURE _____ Date _____

Please send this coupon with your cheque to FRANCES GODDARD, The Times Higher Educational Supplement, Priory House, St. John's Lane, London, EC1M 4BX.

Sample example

The General Housing Survey conducted by the Government's Statistical Service was described as "statistically worthless" by Auberon Waugh in a recent issue of *The Spectator* because the sample "

BOOKS

Paperbacks: Philip Howard, our Literary Editor, makes his year's choice

For those who like their nonsense nonsensical

Picking the paperbacks of the year is like standing under Niagara with a bucket trying to catch salmon. And we do realize, don't we, boys and girls, that the selection is subjective, erratic and pig-headed. One man's meat is another man's poison. On a different day, in a different mood, the selection would be different. But here are some of the paperbacks that I should spend my Christmas book-tokens on.

On the shelf of light fiction for a good understanding read there was *Vintage Style* by Tom Sharpe, paperbacked for the first time, (£1.75). It is not quite *Vintage Sharpe* (I still like *Witt* and the South African ones best). But it is characteristically rude, anarchic and funny: a send-up of all those clubland heroes by Dornford Yates and Sapper rescuing heroines around Europe in vintage

Bentleys. For those who prefer to take such nonsense seriously a new series, Dent Everyman, has started reissuing such classic thrillers with *Blind Corner* by Dornford Yates (Dent, £2.50) and *Bulldog Drummond* (Dent, £2.50). *Flashman* and the Redskins by George MacDonald Fraser (£1.95) ships Flashie to the New World as a Forty-Niner on the Santa Fe Trail, and then with Custer at Little Big Horn.

On the shelf of serious or higher fiction the event of the year was the appearance in paperback of Terry Kilmartin's definitive and sensitive translation of *Things Past* (Penguin, three volumes, £5.95 each). If you are even going to climb that mountain, this is the best and cheapest version in English. Virago at the end of the year published two of Nadine Gor-

dimer's early novels, *The Lying Days* and *Occasion for Loving* (Virago, £3.50 each). One has to grow up and leave behind the lying days of youth. In South Africa there can be far-reaching consequences from the wrong occasion for loving. The books are about black and white, passion and politics, and the interesting grey areas in between, by one of our finest contemporary novelists.

For biography let us pick out Humphrey Carpenter's brilliant critical book on W. H. Auden (*Unwin*, £4.50); *Tennyson: The Unseen Heart*, by Robert Bernard Martin (Faber, £5.95); and Denis Mack Smith's *Mafalda* (Paladin, £2.95).

On the history shelf the biggest and best paperback of the year was John Julius Norwich's loving and scholarly portrayal of the most beautiful

son (Oxford, £4.95). Translation into verse is an old English art, and this anthology discovers it from all ages and languages, with many surprises and delights.

On the critical shelf the silver dagger must go to Philip Larkin for *Required Writing* (Faber, £4.95), his collected reviews from the past 30 years; viz. the first and funniest lit. crit. in English. Notice also *The Penguin Complete Longer Non-Fiction of George Orwell* (Penguin, £3.95), a cumbersome title, but the first paperback collection of *Wages of Pain*, *Down and Out in Catalonia*.

For the classics I commend to you Alfred the Great by Simon Keynes and Michael Lapidge (Penguin, £2.95), a rich assembly of *Asser*, Alfred himself, and the other contemporary sources. Also do not miss

Horace, the Complete Odes and Epodes by W. G. Shepherd and Betty Radice (Penguin, £1.95).

For crime Zomba Books have started a new series, called Black Box Thrillers, which recovers from oblivion the unobtainable pulp classics of our youth. The Cornell Woolrich volume includes *The Bride Were Black* and *Wain* into Darkness (both filmed by Truffaut), *Rear Window* (Hitchcock) and *Phantom Lady* (Robert Stodola).

The most conspicuous growth area in paperback publishing is literary travel. Century, Penguin and other houses have started good new travel series this year. But the most entertaining and perhaps least known single volume of travel between paperbacks was *Flaubert in Egypt*, edited by Francis Steegmuller (Michael Haig, £5.95).



Clarendon: "one of Britain's greatest men"

Historic rectitude

Clarendon and the English Revolution
By R. W. Harris

(Chatto & Windus, £30)

It is curious that considering the multitude of scholars who study every aspect of the Civil War in England, producing monographs on the struggle for Hull or Canterbury debates about the nature of Independence or the role of the Levellers, scarcely anyone turns to Clarendon's great history except as a source for pillage or disapproval. Compared with the vast scholarly industries that churn out books, articles and journals on Gibbon, Macaulay or even minor poets of the seventeenth century, Clarendon attracts few scholars, although most pay lip-service to his greatness. True, he has not been entirely neglected.

Brian

Wormall wrote a difficult, complex but highly perceptive study in 1951 (scarcely referred to by Mr Harris, maybe it was too difficult), and there is a brilliant *tour de force* by our best living historical essayist, Hugh Trevor Roper (if only he had written Clarendon's life rather than Archbishop Laud's), but little else.

Unfortunately Mr Harris is not the man to fill the need for a new long study of Clarendon as both politician and historian. His book is easy to read and he has read the obvious sources.

He quotes agreeably Clarendon's splendid prose so every few pages there is a delectable oasis to refresh the thirsty reader. But there are too many reminders of the classroom – too many as 'Dr' Morrill says on Cheshire' or 'as Professor Everett writes on Kent' or 'Dr Pearl on London' etc. followed by a long paragraph of précis. It is a pity that the end could not have reached another stomach. Nevertheless the book has many virtues – it is less tortuous than Wormall's; indeed it gives a good clear account of Clarendon's public life. Harris's judgments are sensible enough, though rarely penetrating or truly perceptive.

Modern American fiction has contemplated one of the central concepts of our time – entropy – with wit, terror and variety. I should like to see a fiction that came to terms with the ideas of evolutionary biologists, Darwin's successors. John Maynard Smith and others have studied 'altruism' in animals in a way that could modify our moral concepts. Freud, in his great meditation on the origins of life and the desire for death, in *Beyond the Pleasure Principle*, speculated on the binding and building sexual force of Eros, and on Weissman's hypothesis that the germ cell was immortal, the individual body mortal. The discovery of DNA, of the relation of genotype and phenotype, endorsed Weissman.

Lucien

Goldman defined great writing as a concrete presentation of beings and things which derived from a vision of life that held in extreme coherence the powerful ideas, social forces, behaviour of its time. Gillian Beer has triumphantly shown that *Daniel Deronda* in conception and in spite of some fagged writing – is such a coherent vision. Gillian Beer's authority and ease with varied and complex material have an appropriately analogous coherence.

Modern American fiction has contemplated one of the central concepts of our time – entropy – with wit, terror and variety. I should like to see a fiction that came to terms with the ideas of evolutionary biologists, Darwin's successors. John Maynard Smith and others have studied 'altruism' in animals in a way that could modify our moral concepts. Freud, in his great meditation on the origins of life and the desire for death, in *Beyond the Pleasure Principle*, speculated on the binding and building sexual force of Eros, and on Weissman's hypothesis that the germ cell was immortal, the individual body mortal. The discovery of DNA, of the relation of genotype and phenotype, endorsed Weissman.

Margaret

Mead, a formidable fighter against Victorian sexual stereotypes and fixed roles, nevertheless at the end of her life became interested in the double helix of DNA and in the apparent necessity for life of the opposition and difference between male and female. Feminist fiction and theory tend to use a Marxist paradigm of exploitation. George Eliot – and Gillian Beer – are women profoundly and with open-minded ambition concerned with the nature, the limitations and the possibilities of being a woman. There is a possible fiction to be made, informed by biological as much as social Darwinism. Ideas too have roots and continued development.

A. S. Byatt

Facing up to the hazards of language
A world teeming with abundant imagesDarwin's Plots
By Gillian Beer

(Routledge & Kegan Paul, £17.95)

Some thinkers have so modified and constructed our ways of apprehending our world that we must discuss it in their terms, even if we have not read them, even if we wish to reject or modify their assumptions. Such was Darwin, and later, Freud. Gillian Beer's excellent book is about Darwin's ideas, as they developed. In the nineteenth century there were no 'two cultures': history, science, religion, anthropology, sociology, literature appeared side by side in the same reviews. Darwin wrote for the general civilized public. Gillian Beer begins with an examination of his language. She makes it very clear that he thought carefully about the implications of his choice of words and style.

His world, she says, teems with specificity, described forms of life, abundance. It has 'no place for an initiating or intervening creator'. His world preceeds Man, will probably last beyond him, exceeds the grasp of his understanding. *The Origin of Species* deliberately excludes discussion of the origin or nature of humankind. *Darwin's Plots* shows the hazards implicit in the nature of language itself for that enterprise. Language is a human phenomenon, anthropocentric. Mrs Beer shows Darwin

trying to mitigate this, and also revising his texts to get rid of a planning intelligence. He deletes phrases like 'primordial forms into which life was first breathed.' He amends the personification of Nature as a benign goddess, or Natural Selection as a designing demigod. This is hard: the word 'creature' implies 'creator'.

Observation of similarity is essential to human perception and thought, the making of metaphors is an intrinsic part of discovering the world. Some modern scientists eschew metaphor as an inappropriate intrusion into objective observation. Some see it as a way of observing the relations of minds and things. Language is shot through with metaphor – consider the roots of a plant, a tooth, a language, a race, a culture. Again Dr Beer shows that Darwin thought about the sources and effects of his images. He depicted the relationships of species as a Tree of Descent, initially because the diagram he drew looked like a tree. But he carried Milton on his wondering journeys through the tropical forests and his tree became mythic, the Tree of Life, but also the Tree of Knowledge, *Arbor Vitae, Arbor Scientiae*. His subversive vision of our origins thus changes our myth of origin, the Man in the Garden, naming the beasts of the field.

Gillian Beer studies Darwin's ideas (and those of other thinkers about Development) in Victorian fiction. *The Water*

Babes depicts the metamorphosis of living forms in the primal sea. Hardy takes up Darwin's views of sexual selection for fitness, and his interest in chance, and struggle for survival. And we are given a new vision of George Eliot. There is a brilliant reading of *Middlemarch* in terms of human time, the search for origins, the web of elective affinities. But the reading of *Daniel Deronda* is one of the best and wisest uses of history of ideas and particular interpretation I have met.

Middlemarch is connected to *The Origin of Species* and *Daniel Deronda* to *The Descent of Man and Selection in Relation to Sex*. In that book Darwin points out that in most species the female selects the male for 'fitness'. With us, the man chooses, and in civilized society chooses for financial reasons and 'according to the accepted standards of "beauty"'. Darwin quotes Schopenhauer. 'The final aim of all love intrigues, be they comic or tragic, is really of more importance than all other ends in human life... It is not the weal or woe of one individual but that of the human race to come that is at stake.'

Seen in the light of this, the traditional manner of fiction – female beauty, courtship, marriage, heredity, lost parents – assumes ironies, problems, importances which George Eliot understood and shaped into the plan of her novel. In its first scene Daniel, a Jew unaware of his cultural roots, with an unknown mother, watches rootless Gwendolen playing a game of chance in a casino. The first sentence is 'Was she beautiful or not?' The 'love intrigue' prefigured does not happen. Daniel's discovery and acceptance of his roots, Gwendolen's horror of love and childbearing, raise the question 'Can one escape from one's genetic and cultural inheritance – from the genealogical imperative?'

Lucien Goldman defined great writing as a concrete presentation of beings and things which derived from a vision of life that held in extreme coherence the powerful ideas, social forces, behaviour of its time. Gillian Beer has triumphantly shown that *Daniel Deronda* in conception and in spite of some fagged writing – is such a coherent vision. Gillian Beer's authority and ease with varied and complex material have an appropriately analogous coherence.

Modern American fiction has contemplated one of the central concepts of our time – entropy – with wit, terror and variety. I should like to see a fiction that came to terms with the ideas of evolutionary biologists, Darwin's successors. John Maynard Smith and others have studied 'altruism' in animals in a way that could modify our moral concepts. Freud, in his great meditation on the origins of life and the desire for death, in *Beyond the Pleasure Principle*, speculated on the binding and building sexual force of Eros, and on Weissman's hypothesis that the germ cell was immortal, the individual body mortal. The discovery of DNA, of the relation of genotype and phenotype, endorsed Weissman.

Margaret Mead, a formidable fighter against Victorian sexual stereotypes and fixed roles, nevertheless at the end of her life became interested in the double helix of DNA and in the apparent necessity for life of the opposition and difference between male and female. Feminist fiction and theory tend to use a Marxist paradigm of exploitation. George Eliot – and Gillian Beer – are women profoundly and with open-minded ambition concerned with the nature, the limitations and the possibilities of being a woman. There is a possible fiction to be made, informed by biological as much as social Darwinism. Ideas too have roots and continued development.

A. S. Byatt

Crime: a final selection by H. R. F. Keating
Saints and sinners who keep to the point

Short days, short stories. And these, mostly of dark evening taleways to hand. Most of them fall into that slightly curious mode the crime short story seems to impose. Depending on some ingenious twist they have to create a lot of significant, or 'red herring', details into comparatively short lengths and this prospers therefore to be shown and informative, rather than rich and evocative. There is less there to my mind, though anyone wanting merely 10 or 20 minutes' entertainment might do worse.

Plenty for such people to read here, most notably in *The Best of Ellery Queen* (Hale, £7.95) which contains 30 stories culled from the Sixties and Seventies in that sterling American magazine. With such a field to pluck from (Borges features and H. G. Wells' fine, but surely non-mystery, tale 'The Door in the Wall') it might be expected that the standard is high. And so it is in the aficionado's line with such

stories as the late Ellery Queen's own four-page riddle 'The Three Students'. But in the evocative and memorable stakes only perhaps one, Eric Ambler's 'The Blood Bargain', qualifies. But for that and the Wells the volume is worth having.

More reprints (and five originals) in *John Cawsey's Crime Collection 1983* edited by Herbert Harris (Gollancz, £7.95) and again Celia Dale, who seems particularly happy setting her stories in distant days, scores heavily with 'Faery Tales', a delicious faultless evocation of late Victorian painterly circles. P. D. James, too, has a pulsing story not dissimilar to her novel *Innocent Blood*. The elbow-room this editor allows certainly helps anyone wanting to be more than merely ingenious. And, another confession, I wanted to do that myself. Read 'And We in Dreams', and see if I succeed.

Finally there is Great French Detective Stories, edited by T. J. Hale (Bodley Head, £7.95). 10 stories ranging in date from 1876 to 1932 with a long scholarly introduction convincingly disproving the standard wisdom of British critics such as myself that there is no crime

world. Oh, and there is a Sherlock Holmes pastiche from me (naughty fellow).

Twelve wholly new stories in *Winter's Crimes 15*, edited by George Hardinge (Macmillan, £6.95) and again Celia Dale, who seems particularly happy setting her stories in distant days, scores heavily with 'Faery Tales', a delicious faultless evocation of late Victorian painterly circles. P. D. James, too, has a pulsing story not dissimilar to her novel *Innocent Blood*. The elbow-room this editor allows certainly helps anyone wanting to be more than merely ingenious. And, another confession, I wanted to do that myself. Read 'And We in Dreams', and see if I succeed.

This is Harry Keating's last regular review of crime novels for *The Times*. He has entertained and informed and surprised us for 15 years, and has become, at an early age, the doyen of crime reviewers. If he did not quite invent, he performed the 30-word capsule review that told you about the book and made you laugh. We shall miss him.

John Plumb

Anyone mean enough to throw a party without Smirnoff will have fun throwing this streamer.

COLOUR IN, CUT OUT AND CHUCK AROUND ROOM.

SMIRNOFF

IF IT ISN'T SMOOTH IT ISN'T SMIRNOFF

Majestic vistas

Survey of London

Volume XLII, Southern Kensington

Edited by F. H. W. Sheppard

(Athlone Press for the GLC, £4.50)

C. R. Ashbee founded the London Survey Committee, and, as its chairman, published in 1886 its first slim monograph. Now a function of the Historic Buildings Panel of the GLC, the Survey of London has just produced Volume XLII, *Southern Kensington: Brompton*. It covers a wedge-shaped area from Knightsbridge in the east to Brompton Cemetery in the west, bounded by Brompton and Old Brompton Roads on the north and Fulham Road in the south.

Those familiar with this majestic and beautifully orchestrated work will know what to expect. Newcomers will be astonished by the comprehensiveness of its research and the quality and presentation of its content in text, drawing and photograph. Dr F. H. W. Sheppard has edited the Survey since 1954, producing 16 volumes. He has now retired after maintaining throughout standards unequalled by any other work of this magnitude.

Although Brompton has some earlier buildings most date from 1820 when the surge of nineteenth-century speculative housebuilding was beginning to swallow up the fabled orchards and market-gardens of west London. The area is divided into a number of estates of which the Smith's Charity Estate and the Boltons, and Redcliffe Square, are the largest. In addition Volume XLII includes the development of the Mews, the building of the London Oratory and the development of Alexander and Thurloe Squares, among others.

The layout and design of the various estates were generally the responsibility of the estate surveyor, often an architect. George Basevi, architect of the

Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, was surveyor to both Alexander and Smith's Charity Estates until his untimely death in 1845.

The Gunter family were among the successful landowners. James Gunter, named in 1817 as a 'landed confectioner', bought land in west London and with his surveyor and architect George Godwin developed both the Boltons and Redcliffe Square areas. Tregunter Road was named after the Gunter home in Breconshire. Redcliffe Square presumably because Godwin had restored St Mary Redcliffe in Bristol. Godwin, who with his brother Henry built three churches in the Kensington area, was an independent building lessor and also the editor of *The Builder*.

Some builders only undertook a few houses but even so there were many bankruptcies, and some were imprisoned for debt, so uncertain was the property market. James Bonnin, however, was more successful than most, building 300 houses in 40 years, before he too crashed. The real golden boy of his time was Charles James Freake, son of a coal merchant. He was a carpenter turned builder, architect, patron of the arts and public benefactor. In a career lasting 50 years he built 500 large houses and many other buildings. He rose in the social scale, entertained royalty at his musical 'tableaux vivants', became a baronet and died in 1884 leaving the best part of three-quarters of a million.

Gontran Goulden





Charley's angst

In *The Boss*, the profile of Charles Haughey written by two Irish journalists, Joe Joyce and Peter Murtagh, the former Taoiseach is described thus: "He believed that there was a conspiracy behind most events: everything happened because somebody made it happen... He saw the most lowly report in any newspaper as having been inspired by someone and having been selected, edited and printed for a reason. If it was a reference favourable to Haughey, then it had been done by friends; if it was unfavourable, it had been inspired and placed deliberately by an enemy." Eason's, one of Dublin's major retail chains has refused to stock the book. I suspect a conspiracy.

By a whisker

Though five female writers have been racing to produce their own books on the subject of the opposite sex, a mere male has beaten them to it. Men, by Phillip Hodson, is due to be published January 11. Hodson, a marriage guidance counsellor and LBC's agony uncle, is perhaps the only professional problem-solver to be the source rather than the solution to a problem. Last year his wife, Anne Hooper, who is also a marriage guidance counsellor, wrote to *The Guardian* confessing a few doubts about how to cope with her own marriage.

The sales after

Since *The Day After* did not recoup its estimated \$7m budget from its single American television screening, the company that made it, ABC, are relying on foreign sales to make up the production costs. The situation is not promising. Though it has been shown on British television and in West German cinemas, it still awaits screenings in most other European countries. A planned showing in Poland earlier this month was cancelled by the Polish Government at the last minute.

ABC may derive some hope from the fact that Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union have all requested cassettes of the film for review. Whether Michael Heseltine will be given a right to reply in these countries is not yet known.

Religious act

Not-so-old Christmas traditions: soldiers in the 2nd Battalion, Parachute Regiment, were given a self-service curry buffer instead of their usual Christmas lunch. And the parishioners at an Anglican church in Chorleywood, Hertfordshire, were treated to a new-style family service on Christmas Day. Opening the service, the vicar, wearing a puppet called Dylan, performed a ventriloquist act.

BARRY FANTONI



"I've got you some short-sleeve shirts and a nice pair of sandals!"

Unpatriotic

Two scandals which disturbed Vienna at the turn of the century, one involving a judge accused of murder and the other an officer accused of spying, have provided the inspiration for several plays. One is *The Devil's Lieutenant* (to be screened by Channel 4 on January 11 and 12); another is *John Osborne's A Patriot for Me*. The film rights of the latter were bought by a Hungarian film company for a new version to be directed by Szabo, who made the much-acclaimed *Mephisto*. Osborne's script has now been scrapped for it dwells on two things that would upset Hungarian officialdom: the chief protagonist's homosexuality and the fact that he was blackmailed into spying by the Russians.

Figured in

Awareness of the fact that 1984 is set in 1984 is going too far. A statement from Population Services Europe insists on dragging in a reference to the fateful year and has contrived: "It was just 36 years ago in 1948 that George Orwell wrote his haunting novel 1984 and although he never made reference to terrifying population statistics..."

Imperial echo

Hassan Bolkiyah, the Sultan of Brunei, is buying most of the furniture for his new palace at the Merchandise Mart in Chicago. Patricia Menguito, who is acting as his agent, finds the Mart perfect for such items as the £20,000 dining room set in the clean contemporary style which the Sultan prefers. Unfortunately, it does not stock thrones, and the four required by Brunei - why four, I wonder? - will be made in London. Ms Menguito comments: "It's tough to find a good thronemarker these days."

PHS

Poland: Roger Boyes on a new conflict between church and state

The explosive case of the turbulent priest

Warsaw

In *The Boss*, the profile of Charles Haughey written by two Irish journalists, Joe Joyce and Peter Murtagh, the former Taoiseach is described thus: "He believed that there was a conspiracy behind most events: everything happened because somebody made it happen... He saw the most lowly report in any newspaper as having been inspired by someone and having been selected, edited and printed for a reason. If it was a reference favourable to Haughey, then it had been done by friends; if it was unfavourable, it had been inspired and placed deliberately by an enemy."

Eason's, one of Dublin's major retail chains has refused to stock the book. I suspect a conspiracy.

The story so far. Father Jerzy Popieluszko, a young priest with a sharp tongue ("I try to say what others think") and an entrenched sympathy for the outlawed Solidarity union, has been under investigation for some months for the anti-government tone of his sermons, especially those delivered in his monthly masses for the fatherland.

The case of Father Popieluszko, however, is more serious. The government says that too many priests are encouraging the Solidarity opposition - but so long as this encouragement is expressed in sermons, it is not a great deal that the authorities can do, even under the more restrictive sections of the revised penal code. But the

Church leaders accept that the church has the right to declare some utterances provocative but then tries to undo any damage through the church-state mixed commission or by the personal intervention of a bishop on behalf of his local priest. The bishop agrees to have a cooling word with the priest, the priest is freed and, after a couple of weeks, everything is back as it was.

The government recently told church representatives that it had a list of 69 clerics whose activities were breaking the law, but the list was not handed over. This in itself does not constitute a crisis in church-state relations, say church advisers, and most people agree with that view.

The last possibility is not entirely fanciful: last May a dozen men later identified as security policemen broke into a church aid centre, destroyed medicines and beat up charity workers. The incident, a month before the Pope's visit, was never explained satisfactorily.

The church is not in an easy position. Its strategy, especially since the papal visit, has been to expand the lines of dialogue with the government and make full use of them to press, for example, for the

freedom of political prisoners, or a special fund to aid private farmers.

At the same time it has allowed

parish priests to carry out their ministry according to their preference. There is little central guidance, and this has obviously benefited the many priests with Solidarity sympathies.

The priest has denied the charges but cannot comment on them. There seem to be three broad possibilities. First, that the priest

really was the focus of an underground group with violent ambitions. None of his parishioners can accept this. Second, that he unwittingly lent his apartment to a friend who in turn lent it to an

underground activist. Or, finally, that the material was planted, perhaps by a disgruntled faction within the security *apparatus*.

The last possibility is not entirely

fanciful: last May a dozen men later

identified as security policemen

broke into a church aid centre,

destroyed medicines and beat up

charity workers. The incident, a

month before the Pope's visit, was

never explained satisfactorily.

The church is not in an easy position.

Its strategy, especially since the

papal visit, has been to expand

the lines of dialogue with the

government and make full use of

them to press, for example, for the

freedom of political prisoners, or a

special fund to aid private farmers.

At the same time it has allowed

parish priests to carry out their

ministry according to their prefer-

ence. There is little central guidance,

and this has obviously benefited the

many priests with Solidarity sym-

pathies.

The priest has denied the charges

but cannot comment on them. There

seem to be three broad possibili-

ties. First, that he unwittingly lent

his apartment to a friend who in

turn lent it to an

underground activist. Or, finally,

that the material was planted, per-

haps by a disgruntled faction

within the security *apparatus*.

The last possibility is not entirely

fanciful: last May a dozen men later

identified as security policemen

broke into a church aid centre,

destroyed medicines and beat up

charity workers. The incident, a

month before the Pope's visit, was

never explained satisfactorily.

The church is not in an easy position.

Its strategy, especially since the

papal visit, has been to expand

the lines of dialogue with the

government and make full use of

them to press, for example, for the

freedom of political prisoners, or a

special fund to aid private farmers.

At the same time it has allowed

parish priests to carry out their

ministry according to their prefer-

ence. There is little central guidance,

and this has obviously benefited the

many priests with Solidarity sym-

pathies.

The priest has denied the charges

but cannot comment on them. There

seem to be three broad possibili-

ties. First, that he unwittingly lent

his apartment to a friend who in

turn lent it to an

underground activist. Or, finally,

that the material was planted, per-

haps by a disgruntled faction

within the security *apparatus*.

The last possibility is not entirely

fanciful: last May a dozen men later

identified as security policemen

broke into a church aid centre,

destroyed medicines and beat up

charity workers. The incident, a

month before the Pope's visit, was

never explained satisfactorily.

The church is not in an easy position.

Its strategy, especially since the

papal visit, has been to expand

the lines of dialogue with the

government and make full use of

them to press, for example, for the

freedom of political prisoners, or a

special fund to aid private farmers.

At the same time it has allowed

parish priests to carry out their

ministry according to their prefer-

ence. There is little central guidance,

and this has obviously benefited the

many priests with Solidarity sym-

pathies.

The priest has denied the charges

but cannot comment on them. There

seem to be three broad possibili-

ties. First, that he unwittingly lent

his apartment to a friend who in

turn lent it to an

underground activist. Or, finally,

that the material was planted, per-

haps by a disgruntled faction

within the security *apparatus*.

The last possibility is not entirely

fanciful: last May a dozen men later

identified as security policemen

broke into a church aid centre,

destroyed medicines and beat up

charity workers. The incident, a

month before the Pope's visit, was

never explained satisfactorily.

The church is not in an easy position.

Its strategy, especially since the

papal visit, has been to expand

the lines of dialogue with the

government and make full use of

them to press, for example, for the

freedom of political prisoners, or a

special fund to aid private farmers.

At the same time it has allowed

parish priests to carry out their



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

STEADY AS SHE GOES

The chill has gone from the economic air. There are forecasters who insist through disappointed teeth that we shall pay later for the warm spell they had not foreseen but elsewhere the mood on the eve of 1984 is moderate to good. Whereas in the summer even perennial optimists were infected by fashionable doubt, few now question whether recovery from recession is either genuine or lasting. The United States is setting a pace which only Japan can hope to match but Britain is among the leaders with an annual growth rate touching three per cent, and perhaps accelerating.

There are hopeful signs. Export prospects in important markets have brightened perceptibly as their economies begin to wax in the American sun. Unit labour costs are moving up no faster than those of our principal trading rivals and the fall in sterling which began late in 1982 has given pricing a more competitive edge. Exporters are clearly encouraged when they have a reviving home market at their backs. Recovery and greater optimism, decisively coupled with improving profitability, have had a similar revitalizing effect on investment. According to the most recent Department of Trade and Industry survey, manufacturing industry expects to invest nine per cent more in 1984 than in 1983. This is an unusually high figure and it reflects more than any other single statistic the change of

mood in industry since the summer.

The argument is not about increasing exports nor about the level of investment but about the rate of consumer spending which together with rebuilding of depleted stocks has brought the economy out of the trough. The OECD believes that consumer spending will not be sustained and suggests that the best of the recovery may already be behind us. If the OECD is right it will be right for different reasons.

Since the middle of 1982 consumer spending has gone up by five per cent, with spending on durable goods rising by 25 per cent. Though disposable incomes after allowing for inflation have hardly risen at all since 1981 this has not been a deterrent. Falling inflation has stimulated the shopping urge, savings have been drawn down and plentiful credit from banks and building societies has covered any remaining gaps between means and ends. There is no sign of the spending spree subsiding and thus no real chance that the recovery will falter and fade on that account.

The domestic threats to recovery are the familiar ones of immoderate pay settlements and barriers to technological progress on which genuine advances in productivity depend. The crucial economic achievements of Mrs Thatcher's Government are a much reduced inflation and a slow, but perceptible, rolling back of the destructive power of outmoded trade unionism. Neither seems in jeopardy at the

COMPETITION IN THE KREMLIN

President Andropov is clearly seriously ill, yet it is his supporters who have been promoted. The explanation is to be found in the Kremlin power struggle which invariably follows the emergence of a new Party General Secretary. Because he is chosen by the dozen or so men in the ruling Politburo rather than elected on the basis of universal suffrage, he cannot immediately change its membership. It takes several years to replace opponents, and even those who voted for the new leader do not wish him to become so powerful by introducing fresh faces that their own carefully accumulated authority is threatened.

President Andropov attained power despite the opposition of the Brezhnev faction, which supported the former leader's choice of successor, Konstantin Chernenko, and which now sees an opportunity to regain the ascendancy because of Mr Andropov's illness. If they fail, they will gradually be ousted from the central leadership. If they succeed, however, it will be the Andropov clique which goes. This battle has been fought continuously over the past year, only occasionally emerging in public in the form of obscure hints in the media.

ON A POSTCARD PLEASE

The annual admiration contest run by Radio Four's Today programme must be the silliest survey in the polling calendar. Field work is conducted only among people who get up, or at least wake up, reasonably early. If you don't, you never hear about the poll. That excludes all well-rested minds preferring to grapple with life's problems only later in the day.

There is the further arbitrary elimination of everybody who does not have a postcard to hand. Even then the sample is wholly self-selecting, and it is unsafe to assume that those who write to the BBC form a typical cross-section of the literate population. The methodology is also at fault in being wide open to organized write-ins on behalf of causes. The BBC claims to be able to spot the hand of pressure groups, but does not say why it thinks it can tell spontaneous postcards from committed postcards when it gets them.

So, absolved from the necessity of taking the thing seriously, one can make what one likes of it.

Justice for ratepayers

From Councillor Peter Davis

Sir, It is with some astonishment that I read in the press that some Conservative members of Parliament and peers are contemplating not supporting the Government's rate-capping proposals.

I live in one of the worst high-spending boroughs in the country - Lambeth. In only five years the left-wing Labour administration has raised our domestic rates by 236 per cent, with very little to show in improved services. They are now warning of a further rate increase of 30 per cent next March.

No government - whether Conservative or Labour - can be

prepared to give an open-ended commitment of subsidising local authority spending through the rate-support grant. I believe that the Government has recognised the pleas of ratepayers, whether domestic or commercial, in extravagant boroughs like Lambeth and we fully support the Government's rate-capping proposals.

Those Conservatives who are wavering in their support for this manifesto commitment should do well to remember that there is not one rule for local authorities and another for Whitehall, nationalised industries and private industry. All these bodies have to recognise not only national economic considerations but also how much the

contributors, whether they be taxpayers or ratepayers, can afford.

The only period of light in many years of gloom here in Lambeth was when our Conservative administration of five months last year quickly saved £3.5m and were able to make a tenpence reduction in the rate. As far as we are concerned, rate-capping for high spending local authorities cannot come quick enough.

Yours faithfully,
PETER DAVIS,
Leader of the Conservative
Opposition,
Lambeth Council,
Room 123,
Lambeth Town Hall,
Brixton Hill, SW2.
December 19.

Yours faithfully,
PETER DAVIS,
Leader of the Conservative
Opposition,
Lambeth Council,
Room 123,
Lambeth Town Hall,
Brixton Hill, SW2.
December 19.

Responsibility in police shooting

From Mr David Hamilton

Sir, The announcement last Thursday (report, December 23) that the Police Complaints Board has found that no one can be held to blame for the now famous attack by bullet, butt and boot upon Mr Stephen Waldorf nearly a year ago brings into sharp focus possible defects in the command structure of the Metropolitan Police and the role that officers are expected to play in it.

There is still a risk of higher interest rates, which if allied with unsubstantiated higher taxes in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Spring Budget, would bring economic growth stalling to a standstill. Falling inflation and the Government's firm fiscal and monetary policies would by now have resulted in much lower interest rates had it not been for the persistently high level of interest rates in the United States. The overseas chorus of complaint against President Reagan's huge budget deficits, which are the reason for US rates being so high, has evoked no response. Nor is the President likely to respond until his own or his chosen successor's election is assured. The best the world can hope for is that interest rates will not be forced up before capital markets begin to anticipate lower rates when the presidential election is over.

As for Mr Lawson's first major Budget, he has enough options to avoid adding to the tax burden where it would hurt. If he uses them and seeks to redress the imbalance between current and capital outlays in the Government's own spending, then 1984 will be a significant year in the economic cycle: a year in which the momentum of economic recovery and industrial revival increased; inflation continued to fall; and unemployment, which in 1983 stopped rising, at last began to come down. It is an exciting prospect.

Who was in charge of the operation? Who issued the constables with their orders, and their guns, that evening? And why, when he did so, did he not appreciate that physical fear had so dramatically warped, or might dramatically warp, their judgment?

It may be some comfort for the people of London to know that the three constables concerned will never again carry guns, but, frankly, a more pertinent question that the Home Secretary should now be expected to answer is, will their superior officers ever again control constables?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HAMILTON,
164 Brixton Road, SW9.
December 27.

SDP coverage

From Mr Matthew Bryant

Sir, The logic and justice of the result, in terms of seats won, of the last general election was baffling to say the least, but some hope existed that the opinions of the millions of under-represented Alliance voters would still be heard both at Westminster and in the media, through their reporting of the parliamentary process.

However the scant coverage given in your paper's Parliamentary Report to the contributions of Liberal and SDP MPs during recent months hardly encouraged this hope and the events of the past week seem to have extinguished it.

Not only did the Government deem it fit to remove John Cartwright, the only SDP MP on the Defence Select Committee, from this committee in what was clearly a political manoeuvre most unbecoming of the whole ethos of the select committee system, but when I turned to *The Times* to read of these happenings and the subsequent protest of Dr Owen, it was in vain that I searched.

The one crumb of comfort to be gleaned from all of this is that the actions of the parties involved can only enhance the case for proportional representation; the question is will it be reported?

I remain, Sir, your disgruntled servant,
MATTHEW BRYANT,
Brasenose College,
Oxford.
December 17.

Prosecution by stores

From Mr R. G. Prince

Sir, The incredible letter of Mr Recorder C. W. L. Jervis, (December 16) that there should be an absolute offence of taking goods without paying exposes the ever-increasing authoritarian nature of our judiciary.

Absolute offences are wholly contrary to our criminal law, and while certainly in the case of breaches of a positive duty mere negligence (coupled with the maxim *ipsa loquitur*) should be enough to establish the necessary intent, the pernicious anomaly of the absolute offence should be abolished forthwith, by statute if necessary.

At the same time, in view of the enthusiasm with which especially magistrates' courts regard the passive act of walking off without paying (which was under the old law and still ought to be the *actus reus* of theft) as evidence of intent, what is required to protect the public against wrongful convictions of shoplifting is, i. a change in the law of evidence such that intent must be established positively (e.g., by the possession of a "shop-lifter's pouch", or by running off with the goods when stopped); and ii. a reversal of the old procedural rule, such that criminal proceedings may not be instituted unless successful civil action has been taken.

This is a necessary test of the misappropriation of the goods. Yours faithfully,
R. G. PRINCE,
112 Great Russell Street, WC1.
December 17.

Charities and the state

From the Director of the Family First Trust

Sir, As a voluntary organisation in receipt of public money via the Manpower Services Commission, the Urban Programme and the Housing Corporation, it must be assumed from your leader (December 17) that we are perceived as one of the less worthy charities that are causing you to worry.

Whilst not disagreeing with some aspects of your analysis, you have ignored the tight, almost stifling controls that departments exercise over public funds. We are not, by any means, escaping the scrutiny of public accountants nor the oversight of ministers, but there is a gap, in their inability to properly judge value for money.

Voluntary organisations are often

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Successes in housing policy

From the President of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers

Sir, Charles McLean made a number of valid points in his article of December 15, arguing the need for a long-term housing investment programme. However, he does not strengthen his case by omitting to take into consideration any of the successes of the Government's housing policy.

Private housing starts, at a forecast 165,000 in 1983, are now at their highest level for 10 years and through the use of partnership schemes more and more people are being given the opportunity to buy a home of their own.

The 90 per cent improvement grant proved almost embarrassingly successful, with renovations rising to an estimated 300,000 this year - not 43,000 as Charles McLean suggests - and the new technique of "enveloping" has proved an invaluable tool in the fight against urban decay.

Certainly, there are serious flaws in the Government's housing policy. Net capital expenditure on housing has fallen by 56 per cent in real terms since 1979-80. The arbitrary decision first to increase funding for improvement grants and then to withdraw those funds when the scheme proved successful has caused major problems for local authorities, householders and contractors. And the recent withdrawal of important draft circulars on land for housing will prove disastrous for the new households of tomorrow, unless they are rapidly reintroduced.

However, what is needed now is not hysteria about the collapse of the housing stock but rather reasoned and practical proposals for meeting households' requirements within available resources over the rest of this decade.

Less inertia and more energy is required from the Government, both in implementing successful schemes such as "enveloping" for the rehabilitation of inner urban housing and in combating the Treasury's traditional inclination to squeeze every possible pip out of capital receipts in the housing programme.

Press upon the Government to shift its stance on housing invest-

ment will carry more weight and credibility if backed by accurate facts and practical proposals.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE CHIVERS, President,
The National Federation of Building
Trades Employers,
82 New Cavendish Street, W1.
December 22.

From Mr H. William-Olsson

Sir, Charles McLean's article (December 15) highlights a depressing situation where unemployment in the building trade is combined with a dangerous decline in the home market: Why does a Conservative Government, dedicated to the healing forces of monetarism, exclude these from a market so vital to human happiness?

Obviously the Rent Restriction Act must not be rescinded retrospectively. Millions, especially elderly people, need security of tenancy but, if from today, landlords were able to let without fearing that they would have to keep their tenants for ever, thousands of flats and rooms to let would come on the market. Young couples would not need to burden themselves with large loans at high interest in order to find a home at all.

As the demand for leases declined building societies would soon find themselves forced to lend to landlords for pure repair and maintenance work. As it is, the Rent Restriction Act drives the nation to allow vast capital resources in good Victorian houses to deteriorate while able building workers are forced to lengthen the dole queues.

It cannot be right to deprive landlords and prospective tenants of the elementary democratic right freely to negotiate agreements to their mutual advantage. An ugly suspicion creeps in that the present Government, which I support, maintains this anti-monarist legislation because home-owning is supposed to make people conservative.

It would do much better to be radical and rethink the whole absurd and almost tragic situation in terms of its own economic philosophy.

Yours faithfully,
H. WILLIAM-OLSSON,
11 Fawcett Street, SW10.
December 16.

Press upon the Government to shift its stance on housing invest-

ment will carry more weight and credibility if backed by accurate facts and practical proposals.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE CHIVERS, President,
The National Federation of Building
Trades Employers,
82 New Cavendish Street, W1.
December 22.

From Councillor J. J. Haggerty

Sir, Robert Holden deserves support for his contention (December 14) that the main metropolitan parks owned by the GLC should continue to be funded on a regional basis.

Their administration by a joint board, similar to that proposed in the White Paper for other services in London, undoubtedly has its attractions.

A multiplicity of joint boards for parks, historic buildings,

museums, and similar functions could hardly be regarded however, as "Streamlining the Cities".

A more politically acceptable solution, if the GLC has to be abolished, is the establishment of a joint board for museums, arts and recreation. Such a joint board could embrace the GLC's current responsibilities in these areas including museums, the South Bank complex, parks, the National Sports Centre, Crystal Palace, archaeological services, cultural events and grants to voluntary bodies. To these functions might be added the GLC's Historic Buildings Division and the Greater London Record Office.

It is most unlikely that the London boroughs will be willing or able to undertake the majority of these responsibilities as proposed by the Government. The Area Museums Service for South-eastern England, the London Museums Consultative Committee and the London Federation of Museums and Art Galleries all support the idea of a joint board as outlined above.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN J. HAGGERTY,
London Museums Service,
24 Bury Lane, Kilm Farm,
Milton Keynes,
Buckinghamshire.

Aid for the arts

From Mr Melvyn Bragg

Sir, I am delighted that Mr Priestley's enquiry into the finances of the Royal Opera House and the RSC has resulted in these companies being given more money (report, December 21). It is useful that an independent report should once again confirm the outstanding value for money - besides everything else - brought about by the small, enabling investment in the arts.

It would be a great pity, though, if Mr Priestley were to be confined to these two companies only. The unworthy suspicion would then surely arise that the Government was only prepared to shore up companies whose financial embarrassment would bring about public even international, ridicule.

To be fair, and there is every evidence that Lord Gowrie, like the Prime Minister, strives to be fair, Mr Priestley should now be encouraged to go to Liverpool, Newcastle, Leeds, Glasgow, etc., etc. In my opinion, he would again and again discover very well run companies largely subsidised by their staff, and performers straining to break even and every bit as worthy of proper support as the RSC and the Royal Opera House.

Yours faithfully,
MELVYN BRAGG,
London Weekend Television,
Kent House, Upper Ground, SE1.

Hitting a wrong note

From Mr Brian Champness

Sir, By describing the police car siren as a "horrible French-style donkey bray" in his letter of December 21 Mr Fyfe cast an unwarranted slur on a gentle and lovable animal.

Your newspaper could assist by reviewing in more depth the policies and practices of those Government departments that have aided the growing symbiotic relationships. A more detailed understanding of the voluntary movement might show that even more funds should be channelled in our direction.

Yours faithfully,
ANGUS WALKER, Director,
Family First Trust,
The Croft, Alexandra Park,
Nottingham,
December 19.

By all means call for a closer

THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Brave new world for investment trusts

Next year will be the year of the investment trust – provided that the movement can market itself better and attract overseas cash.

During 1983 the FT-Actuaries Investment Trust index appreciated 38 per cent compared with an increase of 23.9 per cent in the FT-A All-Share index. Private investors have come back while institutional investors' interest has been whetted by better information from (some) investment trusts which have traditionally adopted a low profile. Mr Ted Sellers and Mr Garth Milne of Laing & Cruickshank, argue in the firm's 57th annual year book on investment trust companies, that the time has come for the investment trust industry to realize its potential.

They point out that during 1983 no less than 187 trusts outperformed the All-Share index and only a handful ("seven or eight") underperformed it. Yet despite the removal of the twin problems of exchange control regulations and the dollar premium, which dogged investment trusts in the 1970s, share prices are still at an average discount of about 25 per cent to assets. The reason for the continuing discount, they argue, is that the sector is too big for the British market; it therefore must go overseas, particularly to the US. They concede that the US is very insular in its investment outlook, but contend that investment trusts would be the ideal way for Americans to test the water of foreign markets. They say, rightly, that British trusts have a high degree of international investment expertise and a close relationship with overseas financial institutions which could produce new international financial groupings attractive to overseas investors.

Two disadvantages under which investment trusts operate are an old-fashioned image and low management charges. Image should not be difficult to change. For many trusts it would mean no more than a change of name to something which had meaning for potential US investors (existing names are confusing and largely

meaningless) and producing more information for shareholders.

The question of higher charges is more difficult to resolve: for years investment trusts have sold themselves on the good value they offer in terms of fees. Laing & Cruickshank would like to see, with specialist trusts, an increase in charges from about 0.3 per cent of assets under management to about one per cent. This extra income would be used to attract highly qualified specialist management and to market investment trusts. The difficulty is to persuade shareholders, who would obviously have to approve the change, that paying more would improve performance.

Certain trusts dealing for example in unquoted investments, need specialist advice and will have to pay for it. Overseas institutions now moving into the City might in any event pluck the best investment trust managers unless they are paid more.

Two developments the stockholders believe must come are investment trust-linked insurance policies, similar to unit-linked schemes, and direct participation in trust management by overseas institutions. Insurance linked schemes are almost certain to materialize in 1984. There are no special problems and the only surprise is that such schemes have taken so long to appear.

There are four other changes Laing & Cruickshank would like to see long term to reduce the discount to net assets. First, lower Stamp Duty, which would increase trading and turnover and increase interest and demand; second, the development of the Index Futures Market to spotlight investment trust shares as an attractive way for investors to hedge their positions; third, further relaxation of share buying-in legislation to allow trusts to buy in their own shares, a privilege already enjoyed by their US brethren; and lastly, the introduction of "portable pensions" to give a substantial boost to the size of pension funds managed by investment trusts.

Ideally, Allianz would still like to finish up with a 40 per cent stake in Eagle Star to provide a footing in the British insurance market. Attempts to reach an agreement with BAT to achieve this end have been given a cool reception. With the bidding evenly matched at 675p per share and no sign of any agreement, the arrival of a third bidder on the scene would suit Allianz which is sitting on £150m plus profit on its Eagle Star shares.

Sir Denis Mountain, chairman of Eagle, this morning chairs a meeting of shareholders in London to approve technical change in the share structure which could reduce the amount of stamp duty paid after recent heavy dealings in the company's shares. Sir Denis has said that he will not be commenting on the bid at the meeting, which should be completed within a matter of minutes. But he, like the rest of the market, must be wondering just who will be running the Eagle Star empire next week.

NEWS IN BRIEF

6,000 jobs boost for industry

The number of jobs in manufacturing industry rose in October for the first time since the recession began in mid-1979, according to figures published yesterday in the Department of Employment's *Gazette*. The increase of 6,000 was immediately welcomed by Mr Tom King, the Employment Secretary, as a further encouraging sign of Britain's recovery.

He said that while it was dangerous to put too much emphasis on one month's figures, they fitted into the pattern of declining job losses in manufacturing and the pick-up in employment in the service sector.

There was further good news for the Government yesterday. The number of days lost through strikes in 1983 is likely to be below 4 million and the lowest since 1967, with the exception of 1976, according to figures for the first 11 months of the year. Meanwhile, a survey has claimed job prospects in the first three months of 1984 will be more favourable than during any first quarter for four years. The survey of 1,260 leading employers, with more than 3 million workers, was carried out for Manpower Ltd, the temporary services company.

The West German Flick industrial group must repay DM450m (£113m) granted as a tax concession. A government spokesman said the economics ministry had nullified the tax rebate because it had been based on incorrect facts.

The tax concession was awarded on the proceeds of the sale of a large Flick stake in the Daimler-Benz group. Most of the funds were reinvested in the US chemicals group W R Grace. A condition for the tax rebate was that the new investment served the national interest.

Battle over Theakston's heads for High Court

By Our Financial Staff

Battle for control of T and R Theakston, the Yorkshire brewery famed for its high strength Old Peculier beer, now seems to have decided in the High Court.

The two declared bidders – and there is continuing speculation that others lurk on the sidelines – are Matthew Brown and Co the Blackburn-based brewing group, and William Grant and Sons, the unquoted, family controlled company famed for such whiskies as Standard and Glenfiddich.

One segment of the Theakston family and board backs the Matthew Brown offer which has been increased from 64p a share to 71p. The rest of the family and board is behind the 88p a share offer from William Grant. The High Court involvement

revolves around the validity of acceptances of the Matthew Brown offer.

The

Theakston's articles of association include the condition that any selling shareholder must first offer the shares to other existing shareholders.

Backing

the

Theakston

London

trust

control

is

challenged

by

other

directors

including

the

managing

director

Mr

Gerry

Thomas

and

another

member

of

the

Theakston

family

and

board

is

behind

the

88p

a

share

offer

from

William

Grant

offer

from

Matthew

Brown

offer

from

Matthew

CRICKET

Pressure on umpires as England face a barrage of bouncers

By Derek Hodgson

Only umpires will now regulate the bowling of bouncers in cricket world-wide. England's attempts to impose a limited number per over have been postponed and the question of whether the bowling is intimidatory now reverts to the umpires, as specified in the laws.

The England players, who depart on their winter tour today, are in a difficult position for which they are responsible. The one-bowler-per-over rule to which they have become attuned in domestic cricket has, they believe slowed their reflexes to such an extent that they have become a much easier target for the pace attacks of Australia and West Indies.

A firm definition of intimidatory bowling can be expected from England's senior umpires. But how will lesser officials cope with an incessant barrage of bouncers, especially those aimed at the batsman from round the wicket, tactics now being used by Malcolm Marshall in India?

How will England's batsmen

cope with Hadlee in New Zealand, where the umpires are reported to be often as green and uneven as the pitches? Or with Imran Khan in Pakistan - assuming the great player is fit to bowl fast - where the umpires are said to be rather less balanced and judicious than their Indian colleagues? One would have hoped that the world's authorities would have been seeking to reinforce a law that is difficult to administer rather than put extra pressure on the human eye and judgement.

The England players, led by their captain and fast bowler, Bob Willis, would probably dismiss these forebodings and instead point to England's strengths. Three of the four seam bowlers in the party, Willis, Dilley and Cowans, can bowl genuinely fast and are therefore capable of trading bouncer for bouncer whether it be with Hadlee, Imran or, next summer, the West Indies.

The capacity to match Clive Lloyd's battery of pace bowlers, and that of Australia, who tour

England in 1985, would be Willis's most welcome legacy to his successor. If Dilley and Cowans can return from this tour as fully-fledged international fast bowlers and if Foster can enlarge and improve upon his already formidable virtues of line and bounce, then Willis's days as the lone ranger, like Alec Bedser before him, will be over.

Ian Botham, fresh from his attempts to terrorize Scunthorpe United's opponents, is reported to be fitter than for some time - always good news for England - and the presence of the two spinners, Marks and Cook, means that England could, if they chose, once more field a fully-balanced Test attack. At some point on this tour, as on every one since 1978-79, someone somewhere will wish for Edmonds's skills.

The batting offers a series of interesting combinations. The emergence of Smith gives England the opportunity of fielding two specialist openers and he and Fowler, right and left-arm, 'the Rock' and 'the Fox', could settle into a partnership.

This would enable both Tavaré and Gower to revert to what has always seemed to be the more natural positions for their temperaments - at numbers three and four. Botham then has to be in, leaving Lamb, Randall and Gartt to argue over the remaining spot.

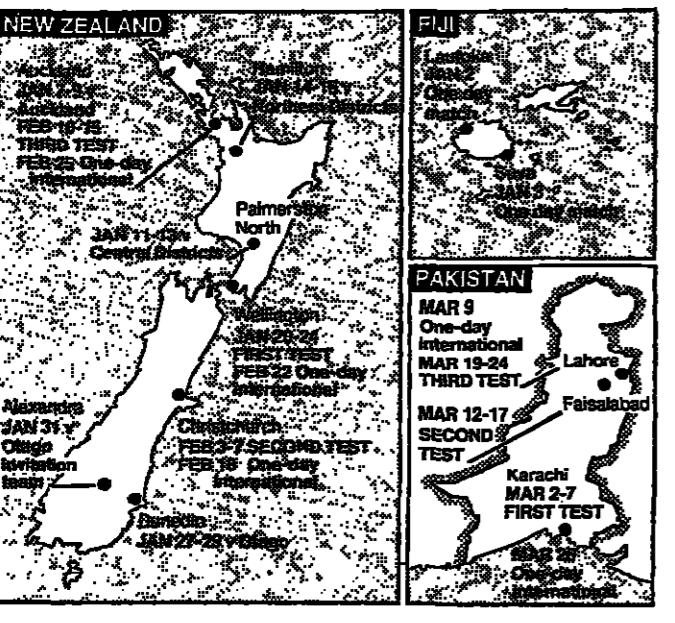
Form, of course, not speculation, will be the decisive factor and each of the 15 players knows a good start is crucial because once a place is lost, it through a bad bounce or unlucky injury, the opportunities to win it back will be very limited.

The tour starts with two one-day games against Fiji on matting wickets, coming 48 hours after a flight half-way round the world. The Fijians may have made little impression on the ICC Trophy tournaments of 1979 and 1982, but in the South Pacific they are a very different proposition.

• BBC Radio 3 will be carrying live commentary on the Test matches in Pakistan (7.30am GMT-11.30am), but there will be highlights only from New Zealand - Broadcast at 6.25am on weekdays, and 7.25am at weekends.

• The England players will earn a basic £9,000 per man for the 93-day tour, with a £200 bonus for each previous tour.

Bob Willis, as captain, will earn an undisclosed additional sum.



Records of England tour party in Test matches

| First cap | M | I | NO | Runs | HS | Avege | 100 | 50 | Ct | St | Bowling | | | Swi | 10w/m | | | |
|--------------|---------|-----|-----|------|------|-------|-------|----|----|-----|---------|-------|------|-------|-------|------|----|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | | Balls | Runs | Wkts | Avege | Best | | | |
| I T Botham | 63 | 100 | 3 | 3548 | 208 | 36.57 | 12 | 14 | 72 | - | 14727 | 6876 | 277 | 24.82 | 8-34 | 20 | 4 | |
| M G D Cocks | 2 | 4 | 0 | 51 | 20 | 12.75 | - | - | 3 | - | 812 | 275 | 17 | 16.17 | 5-35 | 2 | - | |
| M G Cowans | 1822-83 | 8 | 14 | 2 | 90 | 38 | 7.54 | - | - | 1 | - | 1392 | 843 | 23 | 36.65 | 7-67 | 1 | - |
| G R Dilley | 17 | 27 | 7 | 328 | 58 | 11.40 | - | 2 | 55 | - | 2608 | 1453 | 32 | 32.28 | 4-24 | - | - | |
| M A Foster | 1 | 2 | 0 | 13 | 10 | 6.50 | - | - | 1 | - | 168 | 75 | 1 | 75.00 | 1-35 | - | - | |
| G Fowler | 1982 | 6 | 12 | 0 | 436 | 105 | 36.33 | 1 | 3 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| M W Gatting | 1977-78 | 24 | 42 | 3 | 918 | 81 | 23.53 | - | 7 | 21 | - | 134 | 52 | 0 | - | - | - | - |
| D I Gower | 1978 | 53 | 93 | 8 | 3742 | 20* | 44.02 | 7 | 19 | 34 | - | 12 | 2 | 1 | 2.00 | 1-1 | - | - |
| A J Lamb | 1982 | 15 | 29 | 3 | 1061 | 137 | 40.80 | 3 | 5 | 16 | - | 6 | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - |
| V J Marks | 1982 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 25 | 12* | 8.33 | - | - | - | - | 300 | 109 | 4 | 27.25 | 3-78 | - | - |
| D W Randall | 1976-77 | 40 | 68 | 5 | 2073 | 174 | 32.90 | 5 | 11 | 28 | - | 16 | 3 | 0 | - | - | - | - |
| C L Smith | 1983 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 78 | 43 | 19.50 | - | - | 2 | - | 72 | 31 | 2 | 15.50 | 2-31 | - | - |
| C J Tavaré | 1980 | 26 | 48 | 1 | 1620 | 149 | 34.45 | 2 | 12 | 17 | - | 12 | 11 | 0 | - | - | - | - |
| P W Taylor | 1970-71 | 51 | 74 | 10 | 1073 | 97 | 7.30 | - | 3 | 155 | 7 | 12 | 6 | 0 | - | - | - | - |
| R G D Willis | 1970-71 | 83 | 117 | 51 | 775 | 28* | 11.74 | - | - | 37 | - | 16042 | 7471 | 305 | 24.48 | 8-43 | 16 | - |

* denotes not out

Yallop makes silk out of tatters

From Ian Brayshaw, Melbourne

A lot of water (and time) approximately 15,000 miles (and three years and a half) has flowed since the Edgbaston Test match of 1981.

At Birmingham during the 1981 Australian tour Kim Hughes felt it necessary to shield his partner, Graham Yallop, from the fast bowling of Bob Willis. At the Melbourne Cricket Ground yesterday Yallop had the major share of a record-breaking stand, with Hughes that went a long way towards making Australia's position safe after three days of this fourth Test against Pakistan.

Such have been the repairs to the career of Yallop, since that humbling experience at Edgbaston that after his superb 5-173 not out yesterday, his highest Test score, many pundits were making the large claim that he is now the best batsman in Australia. Certainly the figures support the claim.

Last domestic season, when he was unable to win a place in the

Australian team against Willis's England, he rewrote the Sheffield Shield record book with a total of 1,254 runs.

This season he has again been in the runs, opening the Test series with a magnificent 141, adding a century in each innings in a Shield game against Western Australia, a double century in the state game undermanned in bowling will cost them the chance of victory.

Yallop drove, cut and glanced his way to his eighth Test century (the first on his home ground) with effortless ease on a pitch that at no stage encouraged comfortable strokes, but admittedly against an attack which for the most part lacked precision.

When his score reached 165 his total of runs in first-class games for the season topped 1,000. He is in some illustrious company. The only other players to achieve the feat before January 1 have been Bill Ponsford (1926-27), Herbert Sutcliffe (1932-33), Bob Simpson

bad Chappell and Marsh back in the pavilion

Australia still have their backs to the wall, trailing by 91 with not a lot of batting remaining but it just might be that the Pakistani gamble of going into this vital game undermanned in bowling will cost them the chance of victory.

His partnership of 203 with Hughes broke the record for the third wicket in Tests against Pakistan and, when it is remembered that the two came together with the score 70 for two chasing 470, changed the course of this game.

Then, after Hughes went for a patient 94 and Border had pushed the attack in a brief stay for 32, the complexion of the game changed again.

It was the moment all Pakistani supporters had waited for as Qadir at last produced an effort of note. He trapped Border leg-before and the score was 342 for four. Then, in the space of 19 more balls and 12 runs, Qadir's fizzing leg spinners



Special K: Underwood evades Bailey

Underwood, who scored, Davies kicked a penalty and Gargan scored his try, but Hale kicked two penalties to give his side a slim 14-13 advantage at half-time. Immediately after the interval, Underwood went away. Youngs kicked an intelligent ball to the corner, the lineout was won and Cusworth dispatched Evans for his eighteenth try of the season.

Underwood's second try, improved by Hale, seemed to give Leicester a big enough cushion particularly as their young flankers,

Marriott and Tebbutt, were breaking up the Barrowaki attacks well. The last few minutes were nip and tuck. Hale kicked a penalty and Evans, from a touch, converted Underwood's try to make the difference with one kick of the match, dropped a 30-metre goal and Leicester were home to the delight of the 17,000 crowd.

SCORERS: Leicester: Tries: Youngs, Underwood (2), Evans, Conversion: Hale. Penalties: Hale (2). Gargan (2). Gargan, Davies, Tebbutt. Tries: Green, Davies, Gargan, Davies, Underwood. Conversions: Davies (2). Penalties: Davies (2).



The style is the man: Gavaskar, record Test century-maker

Gavaskar overtakes Bradman

Madras (Reuters) - Sunil Gavaskar completed one of the most memorable days of his illustrious cricket career when he scored India's 100th century in the sixth Test match against West Indies and overtook Sir Donald Bradman as the leading Test century-maker.

India had started an hour late because parts of the outfield were left sodden by an overnight thunderstorm. India, 3-0 down in the series, resumed in a grim position and lost Yadav when he tried to drive Marshall and was caught by Tavaré.

Gavaskar, aged 34, remained for almost seven hours to reach 149, his thirtieth Test century. He also shared a record-breaking partnership of 170 with Shastri, the highest in India's sixth wicket against West Indies.

Marshall, having made 72 in 224 minutes but notched his run-rate completed his record-breaking century in another 112 minutes.

Gavaskar, having made 72 in 224 minutes but notched his run-rate completed his record-breaking century in another 112 minutes.

Gavaskar, aged 34, remained for almost seven hours to reach 149, his thirtieth Test century.

He also shared a record-breaking partnership of 170 with Shastri, the highest in India's sixth wicket against West Indies.

Marshall, having made 72 in 224 minutes but notched his run-rate completed his record-breaking century in another 112 minutes.

Gavaskar, aged 34, remained for almost seven hours to reach 149, his thirtieth Test century.

He also shared a record-breaking partnership of 170 with Shastri, the highest in India's sixth wicket against West Indies.

Marshall, having made 72 in 224 minutes but notched his run-rate completed his record-breaking century in another 112 minutes.

Gavaskar, aged 34, remained for almost seven hours to reach 149, his thirtieth Test century.

He also shared a record-breaking partnership of 170 with Shastri, the highest in India's sixth wicket against West Indies.

Marshall, having made 72 in 224 minutes but notched his run-rate completed his record-breaking century in another 112 minutes.

Gavaskar, aged 34, remained for almost seven hours to reach 149, his thirtieth Test century.

He also shared a record-breaking partnership of 170 with Shastri, the highest in India's sixth wicket against West Indies.

Marshall, having made 72 in 224 minutes but notched his run-rate completed his record-breaking century in another 112 minutes.

Gavaskar, aged 34, remained for almost seven hours to reach 149, his thirtieth Test century.

He also shared a record-breaking partnership of 170 with Shastri, the highest in India's sixth wicket against West Indies.

Australia's success gives Fraser his greatest day

Melbourne, (Reuters) - Australia won the Davis Cup for the twenty-fifth time yesterday with a crushing performance of power, speed and accuracy from Pat Cash, aged 18.

The precocious teenager, who was

the world's top junior last year,

had the talent which may one

day make him the world's number

one as he demolished Joskin

Nystrom 64, 6-1, 6-1 to give

Australia a winning 3-1 lead over

Sweden.

Mats Wilander reduced the final

deficit to 3-2 with a hollow 6-8, 6-0,

6-1 victory over John Fitzgerald

in the 'dead' singles, which was

reduced to best-of-three sets.

Neale Fraser, the Australian

captain, himself a member of four

successive cup-winning teams from

1959 to 1962 and a successful

captain in 1973 and 1977, called the

victory "the greatest challenge of my

life". He said: "For us to win the

Davis Cup without a player ranked in

the top 30 in the world... we

can go back to the record books but

I don't think any other country ever

won the cup without a player in the

top 30."

"We have beaten players consist-

ently ranked higher than us

throughout the year - that to me is a

tremendous achievement. I think it

is a great thing for our players in the

future - you don't necessarily have

to have someone in the top 10 to

win the Davis Cup," Fraser said.

"In 1973 we had the best players

in the world - Neale, Laver,

Rosewall," he said. "I didn't have to

be very good to beat them."

The Australian triumph was a

victory for teamwork but in

contrast, Sweden had only Wiland-

er and in 1977 when Australia beat

Italy in Sydney.



Cash: a player who showed his talent

future - you don't necessarily have to have someone in the top 10 to win the Davis Cup," Fraser said.

"In 1973 we had the best players in the world - Neale, Laver, Rosewall," he said. "I didn't have to be very good to beat them."

The Australian triumph was a

victory for teamwork but in

contrast, Sweden had only Wiland-

er and in 1977 when Australia beat

Italy in Sydney.

GOLF

Prize-money totals £3.5m for 1984

Record prize-money of £400,000 will be on offer in the 1984 Open Championship, during a season when Europe's professional golfers will be trying to pick up large slices of the total of £3.5m on offer.

The leading fixtures, so far

arranged, are:

JANUARY

5-6 President's Putter, Fife.

FEBRUARY

23-26 Nigerian Open, Lagos.

MARCH

1-4 Ivory Coast Open, Yamoussoukro.

8-11 Kenya Open, Nairobi.

9-12 Rothiemurchus Trophy, Rothiemurchus.

16-19 Berkhamsted Trophy, Berkhamsted.

23-26 Avon Women's Open, Bristol.

27-30 Zambian Open, Lusaka.

APRIL

5-8 Ballard Hewitt tournament, Royal County Down.

12-15 British men's foursomes, Woodhall Spa.

19-22 Scottish Open, St Andrews.

26-29 European Open, Royal Lytham.

30-6-1 South-Eastern champion-

ship, Royal Lytham.

3-6-10 British amateur, Royal Lytham.

10-13 British women's open, Royal Lytham.

17-20 British amateur, Royal Lytham.

24-27 British amateur, Royal Lytham.

31-3 British women's open, Royal Lytham.

JULY

5-8 Scottish open, St Andrews.

12-15 British women's open, Royal Lytham.

19-22 British amateur, Royal Lytham.

26-29 British women's open, Royal Lytham.

OCTOBER

1-4 British girls' open, Royal Lytham.

8-11 British women's open, Royal Lytham.

15-18 British amateur, Royal Lytham.

22-25 British women's open, Royal Lytham.

29-30 British women's open, Royal Lytham.

NOVEMBER

1-4 Portuguese Open, Olhao do Lago.

7-10 Eisenhower Trophy, Royal Hong Kong.

(JESUS) shall be exalted, and shall be called the Son of the Highest, and of his kingdom their King. Amen. 4 Luke 1:32-33.

BIRTHS

BARNES, GRAHAM On Christmas Day, 1983, at St Peter's Hospital, Chertsey, Surrey, to Jelena, wife of Owen and Paul Barnes.

BENISON - On December 23rd to Sue (nee Hartnett) and David - son of Alan and Linda.

BOURNE - On Christmas morning to Christopher and Helen, a wonderful little Christmas gift.

BOYD - On December 26th at Shaftesbury, Maternity Hospital, St. Anne's, wife of Christopher and Helen, a son, Andrew.

CARDEN - On Christmas Day, Fiona, Mary, wife of Dennis and Christopher, and Christopher, a son, Andrew.

CARREY - On Christmas Day, John and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen, a son, Andrew.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.

CARREY - On December 26th, a son, Edward, to Christopher and Helen, wife of Christopher and Helen.</p

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Daville

BBC 1

6.30 News and Information: available on every TV set.

6.30 Breakfast TV: Today's Thursday special include farming (between 6.30 and 7.00), Breakfast Time doctor (6.30 - 9.00) and Glynn Christian's cookery item (8.45 - 9.00).

9.00 The New Adventures of Flash Gordon: cartoon version of the comic strip. 9.30 Why Don't You? 10.00 Breakfast TV: 9.30 Weekly Races: cartoon. 10.00 Play Chess! improving your board game. 10.10 Jackancy: Andrew Burt reads from Elizabeth Reiner's The Lightkeepers (10.10).

11.10 Smoke: Walt Disney story (in two parts) about a secret-kept dog; 12.00 Look Back with Neeskens: the Formula 1 world of motor racing.

12.30 News At Nine: 12.45

Barney Bear: cartoon; 12.50 Yellowstone Below Zero: The spouting geysers in America's Yellowstone National Park in winter; 1.15 Bonanza: old western series; 2.05 Brother of the Wind: A story of an old Canadian mountain man who raises a family of four wolf cubs.

3.30 The World of Stanley Holloway: A tribute to a sorely-missed comedian. With prints from Julie Andrews, Douglas Fairbanks Jr. and others; 4.20 Laurel and Hardy: cartoon; 4.25 Jackancy: part 2 of Thurber's The 13 Clocks; 4.40 Spider-Man and his Amazing Friend: cartoon 5.05 Blue Peter: Review of the Year: Special guests include Pele, Bonnie Langford, Elton John, Torville and Dean and a 16-year-old Mrs Thatcher impressionist; 5.35 The Engine.

5.40 News; 5.50 Cartoon.

6.00 A Question of Sport: David Coleman puts questions to Mat Boyce, Georgie Fame, Lemire Bennett and Anita Harris.

6.35 Tomorrow's World: Includes the high security anti-intruder device that fills the room with foam. And the lawnmower that becomes a snowmower.

7.00 Top of the Pops Review of 1983: Featuring (among others) JobBoxes, Spandau Ballet, Mike Oldfield, Tracey Ullman, The Cure, Rod Stewart and Wham. Plus Jonathan King on the American charts.

7.55 Rainbow Safari: David Attenborough, David Bellamy and Andrew Sachs take the natural colour trail through some wildlife wonderlands (what carrots and flamingoes have in common; the link between Christmas decorations and the bird of paradise; and - were dinosaurs blue with yellow stripes?).

8.45 News: with John Humphrys.

9.00 Film: Come (1977) Thriller, based on the best-selling novel by Robin Cook, with Genevieve Bujold as the young surgeon whose life is in danger when she stumbles across a nasty and illegal medical conspiracy at a hospital after a number of cases of brain damage in routine operations. Definitely not for the squeamish. Co-starring Michael Douglas, Elizabeth Ashley, Rob Thorn and Richard Widmark. Directed by Michael Crichton.

10.50 Sergeant Bluff: Phil Silvers up to more mischief in the United States Army. (11.15)

11.15 Men v Women: Greg Norman plays Sandra Haynes on the Duke's Course at the Woburn Golf and Country Club.

12.05 News Headlines.

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m: VHF 90-92.5; Radio 4: 2000kHz/1500m: VHF 92-95; LBC 1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m: VHF 95.8; BBC Radio London 1458kHz/205m: VHF 94.9; World Service MF 648kHz/453m.

TV-am

6.25 Good Morning Britain: with Nick Owen and Anita Diamond. Today's "specials" include Pick of the Year (6.40 and 8.30), a visit to a celebrity's home town (7.45), the year's pop videos (7.55), Films (8.35) and Checkout (8.45). Regular items include news (6.30-6.45), 7.28, 7.58, 8.28 and 8.55, Morning papers (at 8.25).

9.00 Roland's Winter Wonderland

ITV/LONDON

9.25 Themes news headlines. Followed by: Sesame Street.

10.25 Film: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (1979): made-for-television version of C. S. Lewis's charming fantasy about four youngsters' adventures in the magical land of Narnia. You will recognize many famous voices on the soundtrack (Sheila Hancock, Arthur Lowe, Leo McKern etc).

12.00 Teatime and Claudia: Merry Crispins; 12.10 Get up and Go! with Bert Reid and Mooncat; 12.30 The Sullivans: 1.00 News; 1.20 Themes News;

1.30 Film: Great Expectations (1975) Dickens's great original is seriously diminished in Joseph Hardy's too highly polished version which stars Michael York as Pip, James Mason as Magwitch, Robert Miles as Estella, Margaret Leighton as Miss Havisham. Others in the cast: Robert Morley, Anthony Quayle, Heather Sears and Joss Ackland. 3.20 Twice Piley: 4.00 Mr Moon's Last Case: Film version of Brian Patten's book about a retired detective superintendent (Stratford Johns) who joins with some children in protecting a leprechaun (Big Mick); 4.45 The Sooty Story - The First Thirty Years: How the glove puppet is bought to life (toddlers who really believe that he is real, should not watch); 5.15 The Young Doctors: medical life, Australian-style.

5.45 News; 6.00 Themes area news; 6.35 Crossroads: An urgent call from the maternity hospital.

7.00 Candid Camera: Highlights from the United States series, presented by Alan Funt.

8.00 Shelly: The layout (Hazel Bennett) is invaded by vampires, playing social calls.

8.30 Hotel: The continuing story of the guests and staff of the luxurious St Gregory Hotel. Tonight, Peter's former wife unexpectedly returns to his birthday, and an elderly couple arrive at the hotel with the intention of having a free weekend.

9.30 News from ITN.

9.45 Film: The Dogs of War (1960) Film version of the Frederick Forsyth bestseller with Christopher Walken as the mercenary who, posing as a magazine photographer, becomes an investigative agent for an unscrupulous international corporation. Co-starring Tom Bower, Colin Blakely, Robert Urquhart and Hugh Mills. Directed by John Irvin.

11.45 The Gee, the Rick and the Jockey: Still in the family stakes in full spate, Bill Wrigley investigates the dummy gold watches, the £5 ice creams and the rigged card games that are designed to empty the pockets of unwary visitors who try to run the gamut of the unscrupulous traders outside London's big department stores.

12.15 Night Thoughts: from Max Sinclair, assistant director of the Christian Centre, Hildenborough Hall, in Kent.



The Snowman: re-shown on Channel 4 at 7.30pm

BBC 2

1.55 Everybody Sing (1938): Happy-go-lucky musical about a theatrical family who, with their servants, decide to put on a Broadway show. Starring Alan Jones, Phyllis Brooks (as the maid) and Shirley Booth (based on her life) and Reginald Owen. Directed by Edwin L. Marin.

3.25 Machines in Motion: The third of Professor Leonard Naufer's Royal Institution Christmas Lectures for Young People. Today's topic: vibration.

4.25 Suspicion (1942) Hitchcock's mystery yarn, from Francis Iles's book *Before the Fact*, stars Cary Grant as the man-about-town whose wife (Joan Fontaine, in a performance that won her a Hollywood Oscar) discovers that he is an embezzler - but, possibly, something far worse: a murderer. Co-starring Cedric Hardwick, Nigel Bruce and Dame May Whitty.

6.00 George Orwell: First of five BBC2 programmes from the Arena series dedicated to the writer's life and works. Tonight's film traces his early life from birth in India and childhood in Henley, to his prep school experiences, then Eton and service with the Burma Police, and the publication of his first book *Down and Out in London and Paris*. Contributions from (among others) Malcolm Muggeridge, Cyril Connolly, Professor Bernard Crick and Jacobin Buddon.

6.55 News: 6.00 Themes news summary; with subtitles.

7.00 Film: The Gipsy Moths (1969) Adventure thriller about three sky-divers who find love (and death) while touring small towns in the Mid-West of the United States. Starring Burt Lancaster, Deborah Kerr, Gene Hackman, Scott Windon and Bonnie Bedelia. Directed by John Frankenheimer.

8.45 Orpheus in the Underworld: Brand-new production of Offenbach's comic opera, which pokes fun at Greek mythology, starring Denis Quillier (as the Emperor Napoleon III, who imagines, during a dream, that he is Jupiter), Horner Blackman (as both the Empress Eugenie and Juno), Christopher Gable (Melpomene), Lilia Watson (Eurydice) and Alexander Oliver (Orpheus).

10.45 New on Two.

11.30 Film: A Night in Casablanca (1946) The Marx Brothers versus some cynical Nazis in wartime North Africa. Groucho plays Litzl's Second Hungarian Rhapsody, and Chico plays the "second" movement of the Beer Barrel Polka". Co-starring Charles Drake, Lois Collier, Sig Rumann. Directed by Archie Mayo. Ends at 12.15am.

With 1984 only days away, it was entirely predictable that our television screens would be awash with *Orvillella*, and our radio sets crackling with it. And there is much more of the same to come. It is, possibly, without precedent that so much programming should be keyed to an anniversary, but to a bona fide one. *Orvillella* had its existence to nothing more sinister than the transposition of two film digits (1984 was conceived in 1948). Channel 4 transmits Willis Hall's dramatized documentary about Orwell in mid-January, with James Fox as the writer... All next week, on Radio 4, *Orvillella* and its title, will be reminders of the passing of the new-born year, and tonight (BBC 2, 6.00pm) sees the start of Arena's five-part biography of the writer which will reach its climax - and

CHOICE

conclusion - next Wednesday night with the events that surrounded the penning of 1984.

● BBC radio which in my opinion, knocked its television Big Brother into a cocked hat during the Christmas period, continues its run-up to the New Year with another day of formidable offerings, beginning on Friday 3.00 with *Three Weeks* of DIE MEISTERINGER VON NURNBERG with Siegfried Jerusalem as Walther and Marianne Hoppe as Eva. I suggest you sacrifice half-an-hour of Wagner and switch over to Radio 4, at 2.00, for the repeat broadcast of Russell's wickedly funny *THE DAY OF THE FALCON*.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

● Sports: I should also remind you that Daniel Snowman's interviews with Plácido Domingo continue on Radio 4 at 10.30pm and that Peter Pacey is still appearing in the *Private Eye* slot.

